

IOWA CITY TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

DRAFT

MONDAY, APRIL 26, 2010--5:30 P.M.

CITY CABLE TV OFFICE, 10 S. LINN ST.-TOWER PLACE PARKING FACILITY

MEMBERS PRESENT: Laura Bergus, Hans Hoerschelman, Saul Mekies

MEMBERS ABSENT: Gary Hagen, Robert Kemp

STAFF PRESENT: Mike Brau, Ty Coleman

OTHERS PRESENT: Josh Goding, Beth Fisher, Kevin Hoyland, Michael McBride

RECOMMENDATIONS TO CITY COUNCIL

None at this time.

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Coleman reported that the media unit has been busy working on a monthly series for the police department. The Community Television Service was very busy in April. 23 programs were recorded. Typically, about 8-12 programs are recorded per month. The Community Voice IC People program featured a woman who was ordained as a priest. The Downtown Association was profiled in the notable non-profit program. Programs are planned with I Renew, and environmental group, and IC Pride. The City Channel has enhanced its streaming video offerings. McBride reported that the University channel will cover all ten commencement ceremonies. Goding reported PATV has hired two new interns. On March 24 Goding gave a presentation on PATV to students at North Central Jr. High. A group of those students produced a no smoking psa. Goding spoke at an environmental film festival at Agustana College about community media. PATV hosted group of girl scouts and they assisted in production of a program. Some people from Goodwill recently produced a program. PATV staff will be going to Oakdale to record a chorus made up of inmates and others. Discussions about leasing space to the Extend the Dream Foundation have been positive and they may move in in August. Fisher noted that the library's quarterly report was included in the meeting packet. In April 8 Story Time programs were shot, 10 adult programs, and 2 shot by the Community Television Service. Hoyland reported he recently sent an email out to all the schools, which resulted in him being sent a DVD of a concert. A second email generated 2 responses requesting assistance. An issue arose regarding what would be the policy if a student did not want to appear on the channel. The school administration did not offer a response so Hoyland will require all submitted programs from the schools to go through the principal or the librarian and they will be responsible for such issues. Brau reported that the Iowa General Assembly passed a bill modifying the state franchising law. The bill was signed by the governor and is currently in force. The bill puts a year deadline on the amount of time a new entrant has to provide service. If they do not, the incumbent's state-issued franchise could be revoked and the previous franchise reinstated. The legislation also requires a prior demonstration of financial and technical ability to provide service before a state franchise can be issued.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Bergus moved and Mekies seconded a motion to approve the February 22, 2010 minutes as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS OF COMMISSIONERS

None.

SHORT PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

CONSUMER ISSUES

Coleman referred to the complaint report in the meeting packet and said all complaints have been resolved.

CITY CABLE REPORT

Coleman reported that the media unit has been busy working on a monthly series for the police department. The Community Television Service was very busy in April. 23 programs were recorded. Typically, about 8-12 programs are recorded per month. The Community Voice IC People program featured a woman who was ordained as a priest. The Downtown Association was profiled in the notable non-profit program. Programs are planned with I Renew, and environmental group, and IC Pride. The City Channel has enhanced its streaming video offerings.

MEDIACOM REPORT

No representative was present.

UNIVERSITY OF IOWA REPORT

McBride reported that all ten commencement ceremonies will be covered. Nine of them will be recorded in four days. The ceremonies will be played back on the channel back to back. They will also be available on their website. Fewer new programs will be produced in the summer.

KIRKWOOD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Kirkwood provided a written report.

PATV REPORT

Goding reported PATV has hired two new interns. On March 24 Goding gave a presentation on PATV to students at North Central Jr. High. A group of those students later produced a no

smoking psa. Goding spoke at an environmental film festival at Agustana College about community media. PATV hosted group of girl scouts and they assisted in the production of a program. Some people from Goodwill recently produced a program. PATV staff will be going to Oakdale to record a chorus made up of inmates and others. Discussions about leasing space to the Extend the Dream Foundation have been positive and they may move in in August. New programs at PATV include "Raising Urban Chickens", "Food as Medicine", "What a Load of Craft", and the Prairie Lights series. PATV will be producing a series of musical programs in which local musicians play one song. The current Live and Local features the Land Locked Film Festival and the National Association on Mental Illness. The next board meeting will be on May 20 at 7 p.m. The next guidelines workshop will be May 2 at 2:30. Other workshops are by appointment. A letter to the editor appeared in the Press Citizen recently criticizing the content of a program produced by a staff member of PATV on his own time. The program had been removed from playback prior to the letter being published. The program featured a pirate radio DJ who appeared to be smoking marijuana. The producer agreed to withdraw the program as it could be construed to be promoting illegal activity. The incident stimulated a discussion among the staff balance between pushing the boundaries of free speech and protecting PATV as a resource. Goding asked the producer to write a letter to the editor in response. Hoerschelman said Goding handled the matter appropriately. Mekies said the internal discussion PATV had about their role and responsibility was productive. PATV is a valuable resource and it is important to be sensitive to public perceptions. Bergus noted that in the comment section of the online Press Citizen there were three comments supportive of PATV and none critical.

SENIOR CENTER REPORT

No representative was present.

LIBRARY REPORT

Fisher noted that the library's quarterly report was included in the meeting packet. In April 8 Story Time programs were shot, 10 adult programs, and 2 shot by the Community Television Service. The library had 12 adult programs in 20 days. Eight Story Time programs and 4 adult programs are planned for May at this point.

ICCSA PROGRAMMING SUPPORT

Hoyland reported he recently sent an email out to all the schools, which resulted in him being sent a DVD of a concert. A second email generated 2 responses requesting assistance. Hoyland said he was asked to play the superintendent interviews that were open to the public on the channel. Originally, they were recorded with the belief that they were for internal use and were not going to be on the channel. An issue arose regarding what would be the policy if a student did not want to appear on the channel. The school administration did not offer a response so Hoyland will require all submitted programs from the schools to go through the principal or the librarian and they will be responsible for such issues.

STATE LEGISLATION

Brau reported that the Iowa General Assembly passed a bill modifying the state franchising law. The bill was signed by the governor and is currently in force. The bill puts a year deadline on the amount of time a new entrant has to provide service. If they do not, the incumbent's state-issued franchise could be revoked and the previous franchise reinstated. The legislation also requires a prior demonstration of financial and technical ability to provide service before a state franchise can be issued.

ADJOURNMENT

Bergus moved and Mekies seconded a motion to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:03.

Michael Brau
Cable TV Administrative Aide