

IOWA CITY TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

**DRAFT**

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

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Laura Bergus, Hans Hoerschelman, Gary Hagen

MEMBERS ABSENT: Robert Kemp, Saul Mekies

STAFF PRESENT: Mike Brau, Bob Hardy

OTHERS PRESENT: Josh Goding, Beth Fisher, Kevin Hoyland

RECOMMENDATIONS TO CITY COUNCIL

None at this time.

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Goding reported PATV won an award from the Hometown Video Festival sponsored by the Alliance for Community Media for staff-assisted program called "Lesson One" on Braille produced for the Old Capital Chapter of the National Association of the Blind. Hardy said that a bill was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives a while back that would protect local access channels. The bill now has 15 sponsors. A new organization, American Community Television, has been formed. It is made up of people who have been involved in lobbying on community television issues in the past. Iowa City has joined the organization and given money to support their efforts. Hardy said the City did not send letters regarding the CAP Act to Iowa members of Congress in the past, but letters may need to be sent in the future. Hagen said that the Commission might wish to contact the new superintendent and inform him of the potential and opportunities the school district channel offers. Hardy said he will oversee preparation of a short memo to the superintendent. Hoyland said he will be working with Ty Coleman to prepare written materials for the school district's librarians explaining how they might utilize the school channel. Hardy said Bergus has been added to the Triennial Review service committee. Hardy said he hopes to send the service committee materials this week. Hagen noted that the Triennial Review is over a year late. Hardy said it should be done shortly. Bergus asked if the Commission would do another review in a year when it would be scheduled or three years after the current review is finished. Hardy said there may be an option to conduct every 6 years and he will look into that option. Hardy said Brau reviewed Mediacom's filing and found a number of errors. Those errors miscalculated the maximum permitted rate too high by \$0.50. Mediacom subsequently refilled and corrected their errors but also included retransmission consent fees, which they had not previously done. The new maximum permitted rate is \$14.22 and the operator-selected rate is \$12.95. Brau said that the basic tier rate in the unincorporated areas of Johnson County is \$25. Bergus said in North Liberty, which has a competitive operator, the rate is around \$17.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Bergus moved and Hagen seconded a motion to approve the amended May 24, 2010 minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS OF COMMISSIONERS

None.

### SHORT PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

### CONSUMER ISSUES

Hardy referred to the complaint report in the meeting packet and said that all four complaints had been resolved.

### MEDIACOM REPORT

Hardy said Grassley informed him that he would be unable to attend the meeting. Hoerschelman noted that there is an effort by the CEO to take Mediacom private. Brau said that the experts cited in trade journals do not expect private ownership to have any impact on the operations of the company. Hoyland said getting digital converter boxes for the school district will need to be investigated. Hardy said he will ask Grassley about converter boxes for the schools.

### UNIVERSITY OF IOWA REPORT

No representative was present.

### KIRKWOOD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Kirkwood provided a written report.

### PATV REPORT

Goding reported PATV staff shot footage at Artsfest and will edit it into three or four programs. Footage from Trekfest was recorded and there are plans to record Jazz Fest. A program created in association with Access to Independence was recently completed. PATV won an award from the Hometown Video Festival sponsored by the Alliance for Community Media for staff-assisted program called "Lesson One" on Braille produced for the Old Capital Chapter of the National Association of the Blind. The board of directors will meet July 15 at 7 p.m. The next guidelines workshop will be July 11 at 2:30. Uptown Bill's will begin leasing the top level of the PATV facility August 1. Construction work has already begun. PATV expects many of the programs at Uptown Bill's to be carried on PATV.

## SENIOR CENTER REPORT

No representative was present.

## LIBRARY REPORT

Fisher reported that June is expected to be a slower month. Eight children's programs are planned. In July fourteen children's programs are planned and four adult programs. Several programs will be generated by the author in residence events.

## ICCS D REPORT

Hoyland reported the schools had some equipment problems that have now been fixed. A couple of the school district meetings had to be recorded using just one camera. Both the City High and West High graduation ceremonies were recorded and cablecast on the school channel. Two new programs, one from Twain and one from the City High parent organization, were generated by the request for programs initiative. Hagen said that the Commission might wish to contact the new superintendent and inform him of the potential and opportunities the school district channel offers. Hardy said he will oversee preparation of a short memo to the superintendent. Hoyland said he will be working with Ty Coleman to prepare written materials for the school district's librarians explaining how they might utilize the school channel.

## CITY CHANNEL REPORT

Hardy reported that next Community Voice IC People program will feature a woman who has become a Catholic priest. The At Home program has featured all City Councilors except Ross Wilburn. After all City Council members are recorded other local city officials may be interviewed. The Johnson County Historical Society is this month's notable nonprofit. The Iowa City Pride festival will be featured on the Community Voice. The Community Television Service recently recorded programs on Alzheimer's for the AARP and a program for the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill. A grant-writing workshop presented by the Community Foundation will be recorded in the near future. The Media Unit recorded another episode of the police program, Community Beat, the Human Rights Commission Youth Human Rights Awards, a program on riding the bus, and the ground breaking ceremony for the eastside recycling center. An interactive computer application created for the Housing Authority and the Iowa City Association of Realtors that instructs potential home buyers on how to qualify for loans was recently completed. It is based on a series of video programs previously produced. An application for the Google infrastructure initiative has been filed. The organization's website is icabc.org. Bergus noted that the City of Detroit filed a lawsuit challenging Michigan's state franchising law.

## STATE LEGISLATION

Hardy said he has asked the legal department to determine if Iowa City would be protected from losing its municipal franchise if a competitor indicates an intent to provide service.

## CAP ACT

Hardy said that a bill was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives a while back that would protect local access channels. The bill now has 15 sponsors. A new organization, American Community Television has been formed. It is made of people who have been involved in lobbying on community television issues in the past. Iowa City has joined the organization and given them money to support them. Hardy said the City did not send letters to Iowa members of Congress in the past, but letters may need to be sent in the future.

## ICCSA PROGRAMMING SUPPORT

Hardy said Hoyland covered this topic earlier in the meeting.

## TRIENNIAL REVIEW

Hardy said Bergus has been added to the service committee. Hardy said he will be sending the service committee materials hopefully this week. Hagen noted that the Triennial Review is over a year late. Hardy said it should be done shortly. Bergus asked if the Commission will do another review in a year when it would be scheduled or three years after the current review is finished. Hardy said there might be an option to conduct every 6 years and he will look into that option.

## MEDIACOM RATE REVIEW

Hardy said Brau reviewed Mediacom's filing and found a number of errors. Those errors miscalculated the maximum permitted rate to high by \$0.50. Mediacom subsequently refilled and corrected their errors but also included retransmission consent fees, which they had not previously done. The new maximum permitted rate is \$14.22 and the operator-selected rate is \$12.95. Brau said that the basic tier rate in the unincorporated areas of Johnson County is \$25. Bergus said in North Liberty, which has a competitive operator, the rate is around \$17.

## ADJOURNMENT

Hoerschelman moved and Bergus seconded a motion to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:35.

Michael Brau  
Cable TV Administrative Aide