

**CHAMPAIGN-URBANA JOINT CABLE AND  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION**

**MINUTES**

**DATE:** October 16, 2002  
Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.

**PLACE:** Champaign City Building

<b>MEMBERS PRESENT:</b>	<b>CITY OF CHAMPAIGN</b>	<b>CITY OF URBANA</b>
	Richard Atterberry	Barb Gladney
	Tom Bruno	John Peterson
	Brian Silverman	Kevin Maxson
	Karen Walker	Danielle Chynoweth
	<b>PARKLAND</b>	<b>UI</b>
	Tom McDonnell	
<b>MEMBERS ABSCENT:</b>	George Badger	
<b>STAFF PRESENT:</b>	Michelle Bailey	Chris Foster
	Jeff Hamilton	
<b>OTHERS PRESENT:</b>	Melody Brucker, Lori Carroll, and David Treat (Insight)	

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2002 Regular Quarterly Meeting minutes and the October 3<sup>rd</sup> Study Session minutes were approved.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The agenda was approved.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Michelle Bailey stated that she had provided Insight with a list of places in both Champaign and Urbana that are supposed to be wired for cable origination programs by April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2003. Insight was currently making sure the Champaign Police Department was wired so that Champaign could still broadcast city meeting's during their Chambers upgrade. Commissioner Silverman stated that he got a letter about wires on the ground, and then received another letter thanking Insight for their quick work in the matter.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Insight made the corrections requested in the wording of their cable bills. The call volume in Champaign and Urbana had gone down.

### **AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

There was none.

### **REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES**

- A. **TECHNICAL COMMITTEE** – Had nothing to report.
- B. **COMMISSION STUDY SESSION** – The issue of meeting dates and times was discussed and added to the agenda.
- C. **PEG REPORT** - Commissioner Gladney reported that the annual PEG Channel cable bill inserts are out and will be mailed out soon. Parkland and the U of I's Channels are both on Insights' Channel 19 program guide. Champaign hired a Television Coordinator, and Commissioner Gladney added that she was very excited about what the PEG channels were doing. Commissioner Silverman asked about getting videos produced by the Illinois State Barr Association on the PEG Channels. Both Champaign and Urbana said they would be interested in airing the programs.

### **REPORT BY CITY STAFF**

- A. **TENTATIVE 2003 MEETING DATES** – The meeting dates were set for 2003. Commissioner Silverman motioned that the meetings be set for the 2nd and 3rd Wednesday's at 4:30 PM, the motion passed unanimously. The study sessions are to be held in Champaign and the regular meeting's are to be held in Urbana.
- B. **INTRODUCTION OF JEFF HAMILTON – COUNCIL UPGRADE**  
Michelle Bailey introduced Champaign's new A/V Technician, Jeff Hamilton. Mr. Hamilton stated that on October 23 all of the audio/video equipment in the chambers was going to be redone. They will be adding new cameras, microphones, a speaker and public address system, as well as a presentation cart for increased presentation quality. The A/V room will get new monitors, a hard-drive for program recording, and they will be recording meetings and other programs onto DVD's. Commissioner Chynoweth wondered who was responsible for the programming of the channel. Michelle Bailey stated that she made most of the decisions and Jeff Hamilton would be taking over those duties.

### **REPORTS BY THE CATV SYSTEM OPERATOR**

Melody Brucker of Insight stated that they had a very busy quarter.

- Their customers increased.
- They were able to meet phone stats.
- Drops: 1,029 buried since June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2002.
- Drops: 202 on the ground currently, will bury drops until the ground freezes.
- Commissioner Silverman asked if there was a target time frame for the burying of drops.
- Dave Treat from Insight stated that they try to get them buried within a month.
- Mrs. Brucker announced that her assistant Lori Carroll would be leaving Insight at the end of the year.
- Lori Carroll presented Insight's new product MAGRACK
- MAGRACK is a special interest video magazine program that is free to their Digital Cable customers.
- Commissioner Silverman and Bruno asked if the video magazines were selling anything and if the selections by customers were monitored for telemarketing purposes.
- Lori Carroll said that nothing was being sold, and the feature was just a bonus to try and get more digital cable customers.

- Melody Brucker stated that they don't know who is choosing what magazine, just how many people are using a magazine. She assured the commission that their intention is to add value to their product, not to track customer interests for telemarketers.
- Commissioner Bruno asked if the Local Source product ever took off.
- Mrs. Brucker said they are tracking the success of the product in Rockford, Illinois before they decide to continue to use the product.
- Commissioner McDonnell asked if convergence of Cable, Phone, Internet, ETC., is something that Insight is looking into.
- Mrs. Brucker stated that Insight and the industry are moving towards convergence.
- Commissioner Maxson asked about the future of Insight since their financial report showed a large amount of debt.
- Mrs. Brucker stated that they have never defaulted on a loan, and the debt has been spent on upgrades, which in return will bring the debt down.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. NATOA CONFERENCE UPDATE – WALKER, ATTERBERRY, PETERSON**

#### **COMMISSIONER KAREN WALKER**

- A lot of talk about broadband's failure to capture the market and convergence of all medias.
- There was also talk about consumer education and how people didn't know what TV to buy or what the difference between digital and regular cable is.
- Commissioner Walker thought it would be nice if there was a local website that explained the options that consumers have.
- Commissioner Walker added that she was interested in knowing more about how the PEG channels work and how they decide what programs to air.
- Commissioner Bruno added that the PEG Channels should be careful about what they air, because it could lead to programming issues and conflicts.
- Commissioner Chynoweth stated that the PEG Channels should form programming committees, so that the channels could be better prepared to broadcast and defend any type of controversial programming.
- Chris Foster wanted to clarify the difference between free programming and public access, by stating the Coordinator of the channel can decide what free programming they want to use, but public access must be shown since they pay a membership fee.

#### **COMMISSIONER RICHARD ATTERBERRY**

- Dealt with a lot of telecom issues, and how the economy affected the industry.
- Cities should be aware of bonding to assure removal of abandoned cell towers, cables, and fiber.
- Cities should consider streaming city programming over the web.
- Public Safety Communications and Crisis Management was a big theme at the conference.

#### **CHAIRMAN JOHN PETERSON**

- Impressed with how the industry was in a slump and how competition wasn't working.
- The slump will create less innovation, higher prices, and consolidation.
- The conference seemed to have less excitement and less new information than in the past.

### **B. ADDITIONAL PUBLIC BUILDING LIVE TRANSMISSION – was covered earlier in the meeting.**

**REPORTS BY OTHER GROUPS AND ORGANIZATIONS**

Michelle Bailey put together an updated list of all the Commissioners and Commissioner Gladney wanted to point out that Parkland was now Parkland.edu.

**COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS**

Commissioner Silverman complemented Insight and Dave Treat for reacting quickly to complaints about unburied cables.

**NEXT MEETING DATE AND ADJOURNMENT**

The next study session was set for January 8<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 PM in Champaign. The regular meeting was set for January 15<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 PM in Urbana. The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 PM.