

**CHAMPAIGN-URBANA CABLE TELEVISION AND
TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
STUDY SESSION MINUTES**

DATE: April 12, 2006
4:30 p.m.

PLACE: Champaign Council Chambers
102 N. Neil St., Champaign, IL

MEMBERS PRESENT:	CHAMPAIGN	URBANA
	Rick Atterberry	Danielle Chynoweth
	Karen Walker	Barb Gladney
	Giraldo Rosales	Durl Kruse
	PARKLAND	U of I
		Stan Yagi

MEMBERS ABSENT: Tom McDonnell, Brian Silverman, Peter Resnick

STAFF PRESENT: Jeff Hamilton - City of Champaign

OTHERS PRESENT: Art Svymbersky - Insight Communications

Call to Order

Called to order at 4:05 p.m.

1. Set Agenda
 - Chair Atterberry added "Future Study Session Topics" to the agenda.
 - Agenda approved as amended.

2. Federal Cable Franchising Legislation
 - Chair Atterberry updated the Commission on the Communications Opportunity, Promotion & Enhancement (COPE) Act currently in House Committee. This Act would nationalize franchising, taking most franchising rights away from local governments. On April 15, a House subcommittee marked up the bill and numerous amendments were suggested. Some passed, but many failed. He then updated the Commission on all the amendments.
 - Mr. Hamilton provided the Commission with a number of articles about various national franchising bills now in Congress. One bill is even supportive of local franchising. Chair Atterberry reports it may be possible for the House to pass a Bill this year, but appears unlikely Senate will get to it.
 - Commissioner Gladney summarized a recent NATOA teleconference on lobbying. She reported e-mailing, faxing, and calling is better than writing letters. NATOA said to talk to their congressional staff and share your concerns.

- Commissioner Kruse asked if the Commission should invite our local Representative and staff to attend a Study Session and hear our concerns. Chair Atterberry said that was a good idea and pointed out state franchising is also moving forward - as close as Indiana.
- Commissioner Gladney reported she has written a Letter to the Editor and encourages other members to do the same. She encouraged the University of Illinois to also oppose the legislation. Commissioner Yagi said he would try to identify the proper person on campus to contact.
- Mr. Hamilton informed the Commission that the NATOA web site has the full text of the COPE Bill and numerous reviews of the legislation, including the amendments the Chair reviewed today.
- Commissioner Chynoweth reported she has a contact in Senator Durbin's office that encouraged the Commission to send him information and testimonials about local franchising. Chair Atterberry agreed to pursue that. Commissioner Chynoweth encouraged the Commission to pursue firm commitments on local franchising from our representatives.
- Commissioner Gladney asked if the Commission should hold a press conference on the issue. Commissioner Walker said a press kit and handouts would be critical to get our message out. Chair Atterberry agreed it was a good idea but difficult to get done before the House Committee takes the issue up on April 24. Commissioner Chynoweth suggested a sit-down meeting with the News-Gazette to update the legislation. Chair Atterberry agreed to contact them.

3. Cable Franchise Renewal Process

- Chair Atterberry's presentation to Urbana City Council included recommendations to negotiate jointly with Champaign with help from an aggressive consultant. He also presented the Commission's recommendations regarding Public Access.
- Mr. Hamilton updated the Commission on the current renewal discussions of Champaign and Urbana staff. He reported that last summer and fall technical and legal staffs from both Cities had met to discuss working together on the renewal. There seemed to be agreement to do so, but both City Councils would have to be consulted as well. Champaign City Council considers the issue on May 9th.
- Commissioner Gladney reported on a recent franchise renewal in Humboldt County, CA that was very supportive of PEG.
- Mr. Hamilton suggested Commissioners send him suggestions on what the Commission thinks should be negotiated for during the renewal, so that a "wish list" can be compiled.

Meeting adjourned at 4:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Hamilton
City of Champaign