

**URBANA PUBLIC TELEVISION
COMMISSION**

DATE: July 12, 2004
Monday, 12:00 PM

PLACE: 2nd Floor Conference Room, Urbana City Building

MEMBERS PRESENT

Barb Gladney
Peter Resnick
Dana Mancuso
Kevin Maxson
James Hayes
Greg Boozell

MEMBERS ABSCENT

Kathy Jessup

STAFF PRESENT

Chris Foster
Tod Satterthwaite

OTHERS PRESENT

Randall Cotton

CALL TO ORDER

Commission Chair Gladney called the meeting to order at 12:06 PM

ADOPT RULES AND REGULATIONS

- Preamble – the word creative was changed to established.
- Commissioner Boozell wanted to make sure that everyone received copies of the city code.
- Section A (2) - Commissioner Resnick wanted to clarify who was responsible for asking Commissioners to resign if there was an attendance problem, the language in the rules were changed to do so.
- Section B (1) - Chairman Gladney added a sentence stating that special meetings may be scheduled as they are required
- Section B (4) – This section was simplified. It states that the UPTV Coordinator is responsible for keeping and distributing meeting minutes.
- Section B (6) – A section was added stating that new agenda items need to be reported to the UPTV Chair or UPTV Coordinator within 7 business days of the meeting.
- Section B (7) – The section detailing Audience Participation was moved to the top of this section.
- Section C (3b) – This was edited to clarify that the Commission Chair was responsible for deciding if any resolutions needed to be reviewed by the City Attorney and that all resolutions must be submitted to the UPTV Chair or Coordinator 7 business days prior to the meeting.
- No other additions or corrections were made to the Commission Rules and Regulations.

Commissioner Mancuso moved to adopt the UPTV Rules and Regulations as amended. The motion was 2nd by Commissioner Resnick. All Commissioners voted in favor of adopting the Rules and Regulations.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

There were no corrections or additions to the agenda.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no Correspondence

STAFF REPORT

There was no Staff Report.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

There was no Audience Participation

OLD BUSINESS

A. Update UPTV Public Access Policies and Procedures Manual

- Section 1.2 – It was decided to leave the Membership fees listed in the manual, since free membership is only temporary.
- Commissioner Mancuso felt we should add a definitions page so that the public knows the difference between public access, educational, and governmental programming.
- Commissioner Gladney suggested that we utilize the weekends for public access programming.
- UPTV Coordinator Chris Foster said that an equipment upgrade would be necessary to maintain all of the public access programming on the weekends.
- Section 3.1 – was simplified to state, the UPTV Coordinator will schedule Public Access Programming.
- There was some confusion between the definitions of indecent and obscene programming (Sections 3.2 – 3.5). The UPTV Coordinator said that he would clarify the definitions by the next UPTV Commission.
- Commission Chair Gladney suggested that UPTV have a program submittal form that would help reduce the amount of minor violations (Section 5.1) committed by public access members.
- Mrs. Gladney added that the UPTV Coordinator should make the violations practical for current UPTV operations and it was also suggested that equipment damage be moved from a minor violation to a major violation.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Discuss duties and direction for UPTV Outreach Coordinator

- This issue was tabled until the next UPTV Commission meeting.

B. Consider broadcasting Free Speech Television and Democracy Now on UPTV

- UPTV Public Access member Randall Cotton spoke to encourage the Commission to recommend the broadcast of “Democracy Now” on UPTV. He also provided the Commission with a petition including over 500 signatures, in favor of Free Speech TV.
- UPTV Coordinator Chris Foster stated that the agreement would require UPTV to broadcast “Democracy Now” one hour a day Monday through Friday at a time of their choosing.
- Mr. Foster added that there were a number of issues that needed to be addressed before FSTV was recommended to the City Administration.
 1. Who owns the equipment and what happens to it, if or when we decide to stop running the programming.
 2. Current UPTV Policies only allow one time slot a week for public access programs. This agreement would be allowing the member to have 5 time slots a week.
 3. Entering into this agreement could allow other members to ask for more time slots or could lead to other members wanting satellite dish’s installed to receive other programming.
 4. Maintenance costs on the dish equipment also need to be considered.
 5. The agreement that Free Speech TV has with Dish Network that allows them to allow us to re-broadcast there programming, is unclear.
- Mayor Satterthwaite stated that we needed to realize what kind precedent this would be setting, if we allow Free Speech TV whose to say that the National Rifle Association or the KKK couldn’t ask us to put a dish on the roof and ask to broadcast there programming.
- Commissioner Resnick asked how it was decided to broadcast programming from the Annenberg Channel.
- UPTV Coordinator Chris Foster said that the Annenberg Channel was a city decision and this is different because it is public access programming.
- Commissioner Resnick felt that the Commission could decide whether or not to run Free Speech TV just like it did the Annenberg Channel. Therefore it becomes a Commission decision not a Public Access decision.

- To prevent discrimination against programming Mayor Satterthwaite felt that the Commission needed to look at all available programming and decide what programming is of priority for UPTV. If “Democracy Now” ranks high in that process, then the Commission could make the decision.
- Commissioner Resnick asked who brought the Annenberg Channel to the Commission.
- Mr. Foster said that he discovered the programming at the Alliance for Community Media Conference a few years ago and he brought it to the Commission. The Commission felt the programming filled the educational need of the channel.
- Commissioner Boozell stated that legally there could be a problem with placing a dish on the roof for one organization and not another, but in all practicality most organizations don’t have the resources or the wherewithal to be able to provide a daily satellite transmission.
- Commissioner Boozell added that Mr. Cotton would probably be able to find four other people to sign up as public access members to meet the UPTV requirement for time slots.
- Mayor Satterthwaite said in ten years technology may make it easier for groups to get they’re programming out. He added that the UPTV Commission needed to look at all the programming options out there, before they make a decision.
- Commission Chair Gladney was concerned about having to change the policies since it is currently listed that you need to bring a tape, instead of utilizing a satellite a dish for public access programming.
- Commissioner Resnick felt that the Commission should act on Free Speech TV just as it did the Annenberg Channel. If programming time becomes tight then we can revisit the issue and look at which programming we should play and which we shouldn’t. Make it a Commission decision not a Public Access decision.
- Commissioner Mancuso was concerned about the acquisition of the dish since Mr. Cotton has agreed to pay for the equipment. How will the funding work and who will own the equipment.
- Mayor Satterthwaite stated that regardless of if it is a Commission decision or a Public Access decision, precedence is being set. You can’t decide to run one groups programming but not another’s.
- Commissioner Boozell and Resnick said that UPTV was already doing that by playing back the Annenberg Channel.
- Commissioner Resnick reinforced his view that the Commission should look at FSTV much as it did the Annenberg Channel and if some other organization comes and wants to put on White Supremacy TV, the Commission can tell them they are not interested but the program can be run as a public access program.
- Internally, Mayor Satterthwaite wants to look at the whole landscape and then evaluate all the options, and decide what to put on at that time.
- Commissioner Mancuso stated that FSTV could also be used as a publicity tool since the Commission had received over 500 signatures from people who want to receive the program.

Commissioner Resnick motioned to put “Democracy Now” on as City Programming with decisions about the equipment to be decided later. The motion was 2nd by Commissioner Boozell.

Commissioner Maxson felt the motion did not address exactly what was being discussed. He added that the Commission needs to review available material, one of those being FSTV, and then determine which programs we want to sponsor as a Commission.

Commissioner Boozell felt comfortable adding FSTV because if there was a real crunch for channel time, then Annenberg programming could be cutback.

Commissioner Mancuso requested that the motion be removed and the issue be re-examined.

Commission Chair Gladney asked if Mr. Cotton would be able to get the dish himself and bring in tapes of “Democracy Now”.

Mr. Cotton stated that he could not commit to do that, 5 days a week all year round.

Mayor Satterthwaite suggested that the people who signed the petition get together and each one could record a program and bring it into UPTV.

Commissioner Resnick felt the most convenient way to do it would be for UPTV to get the dish and for the UPTV Coordinator to be responsible for broadcasting the program. He stated he was willing to put the issue off until the next meeting.

Commissioner Maxson asked that we hold the request for FSTV for now, and that we investigate what additional programming we would like to sponsor, including FSTV.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

There were no Commissioner Comments.

ANNOUNCE NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, September 13th at 12:00 PM in the 2nd Floor Conference Room of the Urbana City Building.

Commission Chair Gladney also wanted to schedule a PEG Study Session in August. That meeting date and time was not determined.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:51 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Foster
UPTV Coordinator

* This meeting was audio taped.

MINUTES APPROVED: