

**Urbana Public Television
Commission**

DATE: Monday, March 14, 2005 12:00 p.m.

PLACE: City Council Chambers, Urbana City Building

Members present: Barb Gladney, Dana Mancuso, Greg Boozell, Kathy (Jessup) Wallig, Peter Resenick

Members absent: Kevin Maxson, James Hayes

The meeting was called to order at 12:02 p.m. Minutes from the December 13, 2004, meeting were approved.

STAFF REPORT:

Chairperson Gladney provided the staff report: The outreach assistant was hired last fall and an outreach coordinator will be hired soon. On the UPTV studio update, all the materials for creation of the studio are here, except for the installation of the phone/phone lines.

Member Boozell pointed out the need to have rules in place for use of the studio before we actually begin to use it. He is going to gather studio-use rules for Chicago Public Television and other similar studios for us to consult.

“Democracy Now” is airing Monday -Friday at 7 a.m. There are a few technical glitches in the airing yet to be resolved, but Mr. Cotton said these things are minor.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION – None

OLD BUSINESS – Chairperson Gladney said the grievance hearing procedures are still in process. They are basically as recorded in the minutes of the December 13, 2004, minutes. City Attorney Steve Holz still needs to finalize the document and with his leaving the city’s employ soon, the commission is wondering when they might be finished. This item needs to be placed under “Old Business” on the June agenda. Member Resnick questioned the complexity of the process, citing the “need for a court reporter.” Member Wallig said the reference might be to a skill, not necessarily someone employed by a court. It was pointed out that the new policy contains the phrase “In accordance with Illinois Administrative review law...” which indicates it is conceivable that grievance issues might end up in the judicial system.

NEW BUSINESS – Member Boozell said we need a picture of what’s going on with programming by type. We need an activity log of series being run, reruns, political programming, etc. Chairperson Gladney questioned policies and procedures in place now regarding series being aired. We have two running now and she wonders what will happen when a third request comes in, since the policies allow for only two. The

reference to political programming led to a discussion among members involving the state's ethics law and how this affects UPTV and airing of programs about or by political candidates. Member Boozell said these programs fall under public access and free speech. Member Wallig disagreed, because now the law treats political candidates and referendum issues completely separately from the "free speech" realm. Interpretation by the city attorney is necessary in order to provide clear direction to the UPTV staff.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS – Chairperson Gladney announced a public access study meeting by the Cable Commission on Wednesday, March 16, 4:30 p.m. in the Champaign City Council Chambers. She also announced an April 11 Public Access Orientation session at 4 p.m. at the same location.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 13, 2005, at noon in the Urbana City Council Chambers. Member Resnick suggested changing the regular meeting time to an evening. Members Mancuso and Boozell were opposed to the suggestion so the regular time will remain as is.

Meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.