

**City of Ann Arbor
CABLE COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION**

**January 23, 2007
Regular Session**

MINUTES

Call To Order and Roll Call: Chair T. Bray called the Cable Commission Regular Session to order at 7:00pm. Upon roll call, the following were present:

CCC: M. Mouradian, R. Sutton, B. Clarke, T. Bray, J. Meyers

CC: M. Higgins, R. Suarez

City Staff: L. Wondrash, R. Salmeron

Approval of Agenda: Chair T. Bray asked for approval of the agenda. Motion was made by B. Clarke and seconded by P. Bancel.

Approval of Minutes: P. Bancel made a motion to approve the November 28, 2006 Regular Session minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by B. Clarke and passed unanimously.

Comcast Report: M. Holmes handed out the Comcast November and December reports. She noted that price increase notifications were sent to the City as required and would go into effect in March 2007. She let everyone know that the Comcast Cares with local agencies such as Veteran's Hospital, Mott's Children Hospital and the Ronald McDonald House of Ann Arbor has continued. These hospitals all were recipients of paintings that were done on Comcast Cares days. She also noted that Comcast had continued its partnership with Slauson Middle School for the third year and were also working with the U-M K Grams program as well.

Communications Report: L. Wondrash noted that the financial summary was enclosed in the December report. She also stated there were no complaints for December.

The cable legislation went into effect January 1, 2007. She noted that the MPSC is developing a statewide agreement so we are in a holding pattern for the moment. B. Clarke asked L. Wondrash who would initiate the statewide contract. L. Wondrash stated Comcast would have to join the statewide contract. She went onto say that it was unclear if the FCC ruling impacted Michigan, as Michigan just passed state legislation allowing for a state franchise agreement. There seems to be language in the FCC ruling that would exempt Michigan.

L. Wondrash noted the CTN Outreach overview was included to help educate commissioners about past outreach projects. T. Bray asked for an update on CTN's goals and objectives. L. Wondrash stated she would have them for the next report.

CTN Report: R. Salmeron noted that due to the holiday, December was a quiet month. Santa Satellite Network went well with 38 calls incoming and 57 children talking with Santa.

He noted that a lot of work had gone into the house bill and allying support. He went onto state that he had attended an ACM meeting on January 4th at HOM-TV in regards to the existing house bill that hadn't passed at that time.

CTN workshops started in January. Now the public access channel (17) had full Nexus control. It is still analog, but the digital controllers are in now. He went onto say that he had ordered equipment for the last two channels.

Old Business: In regards to the CTN move, L. Wondrash had included a breakdown of 12 sites that had been looked into including the criteria needed and the fiber connections. She noted that downtown sites had been looked into and identified that the cost per square foot would be doubled so the recommendation was to look at sites outside of the downtown area. M. Higgins asked what the top five locations were. L. Wondrash explained the needs (i.e., ceiling heights, parking, bus route, etc.). They went over the needs. She also noted the number 1 criteria was cost. M. Higgins noted we didn't need to be downtown. M. Holmes noted Comcast could assist in estimating fiber connection costs.

New Business: M. Mouradian announced that he had sent in his resignation to the Mayor.

T. Bray asked for nominations for the new Chair and Co-Chair of Cable Commission. P. Bancel nominated B. Clarke for Chair and B. Clarke nominated P. Bancel as Co-Chair. The vote was unanimous.

L. Wondrash explained that Finance has provided target numbers for the 07/08 08/09 budgets. She was directed to enter budget numbers into BRASS by January 31 and wanted to discuss staff's recommended budget. The budget is a recommended draft and that City Council only approves one budget year, but 2 year budget plans were still to be developed. L. Wondrash needed to provide recommendations to the City Administrator and noted again she had to have budget recommendations in BRASS by January 31st per Finance.

T. Bray suggested postponing the budget discussion until the February meeting. L. Wondrash went over the budget numbers answering questions from Commissioners. M. Higgins reiterated that Council can only approve one budget year at a time.

Public Comment: A resident, Jim Boyd, had contacted T. Bray via e-mail with concerns of the programming content on channel 3. He attended the Cable Commission meeting stating that his 7 year old son wanted to play a video game and when the TV was switched to channel 3, it had inappropriate programs running (Jerry Springer) per Mr. Boyd's opinion. He had spoken with Comcast and was told the channel could be blocked out. He noted that he thought it unnecessary that those type of programs would be on channel 3. Per FCC regulations, Comcast does not control channel content nor does the Cable Commission. T. Bray suggested bringing his concerns to Comcast, preferably to M. Holmes.

Commission/Staff Comments: P. Bancel thanked M. Mouradian for his service to the Cable Communications Commission.

M. Holmes thanked T. Bray for being the Chair and also thanked M. Mouradian on behalf of Comcast. P. Bancel thanked R. Suarez for joining the Cable Commission as the new Council Rep replacing John Roberts.

Adjournment: P. Bancel made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by B. Clarke. With no further discussion Chair T. Bray closed the meeting at 9:15pm.

Submitted By: Deb Sturza, Administrative Support Specialist

Date Approved: March 6, 2007