

**City of Bloomington  
Telecommunications Council  
Business Meeting – August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

**Common Council Chambers  
City Hall at the Showers Building  
401 N. Morton St.**

**I. Members Present:** Thom Gillespie, Eric Ost, Duane Busick

**II. Public Comment**

Lennon Beasley

\*has reached his goal of 2000 programs for the month of June

\* working on Summer Mania 2011 & 2012

\* Programs created over June & July

Drum Studio – 65

Lennon Beasley Drum Show - 3

Worship Celebration - 1

Bowling Practice – 8

Lyrics of the Day – 2

Singing Studio – 5

Dance Floor - 5

Sentimental Journey - 1

Lennon Beasley Monthly Report - 2

\* In July, with help from Adam Stidwell, Lennon made his first Public Service Announcement. It was a thank you to all who watch his programs on CATS TV, and that he is well on his way to reaching his goal of producing 2500 programs.

\*In August, Lennon will be having his 2000<sup>th</sup> show Production Party on Friday, August 10<sup>th</sup> in the CATS meeting room from Noon until 1pm. All are invited.

\*On August 27<sup>th</sup>, the 2000<sup>th</sup> Production Presentation will take place at noon till 1:30 at the MCPL Auditorium. All are invited to this as well.

**II. Approval of Minutes:**

Eric motioned to accept the June minutes. Motion was seconded by Duane. Discussion was held, Eric found many misspellings, and misuse of words in the minutes. A request was made by Eric that the council be able to find out who is preparing the minutes, so corrections can be made. Another question was raised as to whether the CATS reports are attached to minutes of the Telecommunications Council when they are put on the website for the public to see? Tom is going to make a request to have digital reports from CATS, WTIU, and Lennon Beasley attached to the minutes of the Telecommunications Council.

Question was called for with corrections, all were in favor, motion passed.

**IV. Reports and Announcements**

**1. Telecom Members:**

**Eric** – On July 26<sup>th</sup>, Google made its official announcement of the Google Fiber Project in Kansas City. The price point for gigabit connectivity both gigabit down and gigabit up (where a gigabit is a 1000 megabits/second) was \$70 a month. They are assessing a \$300 connection fee, which can be pro-rated over 2 years (\$25/month). They are offering a TV package on top of that for \$50, which brings the total for what we call a conventional cable TV (Internet connectivity and broadband connectivity) to \$120 per month. They are also offering free broadband connectivity for 7 years (that would be 5 megabits down and 1 megabit up) provided that the \$300 wiring fee is paid. This demonstrates the price point that we've talked about, and what Google is selling at, is realistic.

We are also due to receive franchise dues report for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter on or before August 15<sup>th</sup>. I did inquire to see if any of those reports had come in, and there were none.

**Tom** – How do I find the following type of information?

- About what percentage of people with home access to the internet live here in Bloomington?
- Breakdown of income?
- Percentage of people in Bloomington who depend on internet access for work and employment?
- Percentage of people in Bloomington who work primarily online?

- Percentage of demand and use of internet at MCPL?
- How many people are employed at MCPL?
- What has been the internet access cost over the last 10 years?

I want to make comparisons of internet usage for both residential and business, and then compare with other communities like ours to see what can be better recommended. What type of information can we request from video service providers?

**Eric** - There was a time when franchises were negotiated for the county. At that time, the city and county were receiving detailed breakdowns of subscriber numbers from Insight. There were also numbers for broadband subscribers. When the state changed its law in 2006, there was no longer a requirement to provide anything other than areas where service is offered. If you take the franchise receipts, and you understand what that calculation involves (there is a very detailed language in the state law that pertains to that) and you know roughly what people are paying, then you can reverse engineer some of the numbers. This is how we have roughly come up with AT&T having about 2000 subscribers in Bloomington.

**Duane** – Historically, this council has used money it has in the budget to conduct surveys, or have companies hired to conduct surveys, to help ascertain whether the cable franchises were living up to their obligations in serving the city. But with the new Video Service Provider laws, I don't think we can do that.

**Eric** – We can survey the public. Interestingly enough, Fort Wayne Cable Board audits its Video Service Providers regularly. I don't think the city has ever audited the Video Service Providers. There are provisions in the state law for that, but capitalizing on that may be difficult to get done.

**Duane** – A common sense approach to get the answers to your questions would be to contact someone in the School of Public and Environmental Affairs at IU.

**Eric** – We do have some franchise funds to use for things.

## **2. CATS – Martin O'Neill**

\* 2 reports for both June & July

\*Monthly programming

\*In June, purchased Panasonic Video Cameras (HDC-HS 900) for use with the public.

\* Up-dates have been made to the CATS website. Feedback has been very positive. CATSTV.NET

## **V. Information from or about Video Service Provider**

### **VI. Old Business**

**Eric** – Carriage of PEG channels on AT&T U-Verse is an issue that began in March 2007. The question was posed to Martin O'Neil from CATS if he had heard of any updates on this issue. The answer was he knew nothing. It was proposed that the council make a request through Matt to the City to get a status update on the carriage of the PEG channels on AT&T U-Verse. This would need to include whether the channels are there now; what are the issues that are pending; and what are the expectations for resolving these issues?

### **VII. New Business**

#### **VII. Adjournment**

Tom motioned for adjournment.

#### **Next Regular Meeting**

September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2012

Common Council Chambers in City Hall at the Showers Building  
401 N. Morton St.

Submitted by:

Stephanie Jachim 8/26/2012