

**City of Bloomington
Telecommunication Council
Business Meeting – February 3rd, 2009**

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

I. Members Present: Jesse Strycker, Suzann Owen, Eric Ost

Others in Attendance: Rick Dietz- ITS, Kevin Bowlen – ITS, Michael White – CATS

II. Approval of Minutes: Motion was made by Suzann Owen to accept the December minutes, Eric Ost seconded the motion. All moved. Motion was passed. Motion was also made by Suzann Owen to accept the January minutes as submitted, also seconded by Eric Ost. All moved. Motion was passed.

III. Public Comment – None

IV. Reports

1. Telecom Members

Suzann – Industry Updates

- Just today, we have found out the name of the man who is most likely going to be nominated to the position of Secretary of Commerce; New Hampshire Senator, Jud Greg. He is a moderate republican, with no track record of telecommunications. At this time, approval is still pending from the Senate.
- There is a growing interest in other states in AT&T U-verse service, especially in how the video service provider presents PEG channels.
- AT&T is now presenting the PEG channels on channel 99 with a drop down menu. In Monroe County, AT&T subscribers still aren't getting channel 99. So the only ones that can even see this broadcast are those subscribing to Comcast.
- On the national level, a protest has been developing on how AT& T delivers this service. (CA & IL)

2. CATS – Michael White

Monthly Report

- Programming listed for the month. It was mentioned that Adam Stillwell, Program Manager, came in while very sick to put these reports together.
- CATS celebrated its 35th year of operations in January.
- CATS is participating in the production of Third House, a chamber production. This is being conducted at the Convention Center.
- Discussion was held on not having a drop at the convention center, limiting CATS involvement. With the pending Convention Center renovations, the question was raised whether a drop could be put in. Eric and Rick mention the possibility of using the Digital Underground fiber as a possibility for CATS to use.

Annual Report

↑ 29% increase in programs being added to the CATS collection

↑ 44% increase of new programs are being produced

↓ 13% decrease in video training sessions

↑ Increase in community calendar users

↓ 20% decrease of equipment repairs

CATS has made 1562 dubs.

CATS has conducted 3,000 editing sessions.

Jesse – Server hits are up 96%, what to you pertain that to?

Michael – I have questioned the percentage also.

Eric – I will work on getting an accurate account.

Jesse – Concerning the Video training sessions, is the lower number due to You Tube and other video services?

Michael – We will have two studios in use soon. Each studio will have the power to go live. We hope this will bring life to the access television service.

Eric – Some public councils use the phone call-ins for public comments to gain more participation. Could that be a possibility for the future?

Michael – Yes.

Suzann – Have you been contacted by any of the local service providers about carrying the PEG channels?

Michael – I have not been contacted by any.

3. WTIU – Phil Meyer – No Report

Jesse commented on how much he enjoyed the inauguration coverage, even though it was more on the national level than state, the quality of the broadcast was nice.

4. ITS Dept. – Rick Dietz

Jesse – Has there been any progress in the negotiations with the video service provider AT&T and the city?

Rick – Communication was discussed at the last meeting. There has been no communication since then.

Suzann – Anything from the IURC?

Rick – Nothing.

Jesse – Could you touch upon the convention center and the possibility of piggy backing thru there for CATS access?

Rick - We will just take care of that. If there is an expansion, that will involve just about every city department in some capacity. One of our projects is figuring out how to get wireless coverage along the trail. One of the prospects is putting access points on the building. Possibility of up to three access points needed which would require fiber to come into the building. We don't have firm plans, but could it could be a possibility.

Rick also brought to the councils attention, the FCC filings of the Attorney General of the State of Illinois. The Attorney General has filed suit against AT&T. The suit is based upon the franchise agreements in Illinois, but the problems are similar to those of Indiana.

5. Comcast and AT&T – No Report

Jesse encouraged these video service providers to send some kind of report in order to keep the lines of communication open.

V. Old Business

Reports to City Council – Information needed from Carl Zager & Duane Busick (neither were present)

Comcast

Eric – Representative Pierce has a piece of legislation (House Bill #1619) which is going to be heard on February 12th at 8:30am. The bill empowers local emergency coordinators to request the activation of emergency local overrides.

Suzann – It doesn't require video service providers to do it, just allows coordinators to ask for it.

Rick – Current legislation would empower local units of government to essentially demand that video service providers locally initiate emergency alerts, and that would be done by the city or county unit passing the ordinance, and then video service providers would have to display alerts. This is the current language; it is possible that it will be amended, but not sure where it goes from there.

Suzann found the exact description of House Bill #1619 on the Indiana Government website. Emergency Override Ordinance allows a county municipality to adopt an ordinance requiring video service franchise holders to install equipment necessary to provide both audio and visual emergency information and instructions during an emergency or disaster period. It provides that the video service franchise certificate shall contain a statement that the authority granted by the certificate is subject to emergency override ordinance adopted by a municipality or county.

Rick – I can comment on the Emergency Override Task force in Carl's absence. We have had a couple of meetings and put together a sizable list of people that we want to communicate with throughout the state. We have put together a letter, and sent it out requesting that they give this legislation consideration. Many counties don't have the emergency alerts like we do. Hopefully, this legislation will help us to preserve what we have. A big concern is as the digital transition takes place, video service providers will not transfer the ability to deal with the local override alerts.

Jesse questioned Rick about the charter of the Telecommunications Council, and whether any movements were made on the charter.

Rick – No.

VI. New Business

VII. Adjournment

Next Regular Meeting

Tuesday March 3rd, 2009 at 7:30

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

Submitted By:
Stephanie Jachim 2-12-09