

**City of Bloomington
Telecommunication Council
Business Meeting – May 5th, 2009**

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

I. Members Present: Carl Zager, Eric Ost, Suzann Owen, Duane Busick,
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 April minutes, Duane Busick seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion was passed.

III. Public Comment – None

IV. Reports

1. Telecom Members

Suzann- In the FCC, not all the appointments have been made, but one that has been made has people looking suspiciously. It is the daughter of the congressman from North Carolina. The reasons for appointing her are not obvious. There is some concern that the telecommunications industry is not high on the President's list.

Carl – Taskforce Update

Representative Matt Pierce was asked to give the council an update about where the bill ended up. It was decided that the summary should wait until the end of the extended session. The bill passed the House but met lingering “we aren't going to do anything with this” in the Senate. We learned a lot about the process. Matt believes we have about 15 to 17 counties that are interested in continuing this discussion in future sessions.

Parallel to the taskforce, I have been talking to the communication people at the Department of Homeland Security. The people who deal with volunteers like ham radio operators, and expressed my concerns to them about Homeland Security's position. I received an email from the director of Homeland Security, and he shared a proposal that is coming from the Federal Government called HAZ Collect. The National Weather Service is developing an all hazards emergency collection message system to put into place across the nation. The concept is local Emergency Management Agencies, directors, and coordinators will communicate to the national weather local situations then distributes that warning thru the EAS system. There are concerns about delays, whether present cable equipment being able to handle the load, and whether providers will carry the signal. Initial development is planned for Wisconsin, Kentucky, Alaska, Hawaii, Florida, Idaho and parts of Eastern Washington. If it works other states will be added starting May 26th, with national availability by July 1.

Suzann – Because this is non-weather, they are assuming that weather emergencies notification is already in place.

Carl – Yes, In Monroe County to a certain extent that is true.

Duane – The C-span bus was at Bachelor Middle School and Bloomington South today. The bus is sent around to the winners of a civics competition. It will be in Paoli on Thursday. This bus is a miniature production facility.

2. CATS – Michael White

Suzann – Have we verified that there are people world wide watching this broadcast?

Michael – We need to check streaming numbers.

- Monthly programming – Biggest Production Month – 80 Productions
- Thanks to Adam Stirwell for putting together the report.
- CATS did hook up the City's telecom hotel, so the signal can be shared.
- We have added 3 new production assistants, which are working out well.
- Duane Busick – produced a documentary on “Nick's English Hut”
- Mr. Beasley – has produced over 300 programs.
- No contact with any video service providers.

3. WTIU – Phil Meyer NO Report

4. ITS Dept. – Rick Dietz

Rick –

- Next BDU Meeting on May 7th.
- We have tested the PEG Hub system with CATS signal. We are still working on the outlines of what are our reciprocal expectations in terms of using the infrastructure. The outlines are in the hands of the city legal department. Once we hear from them, then we will begin strategies and discussions with video service providers. We just aren't there yet.

- AT&T has it within their power to secure PEG signal from the incumbent provider. They have just chosen not too.
- The PEG Hub avenue is the way most in accord with the goals of the state franchise. The telecom hotel is in a neutral location. This provides access to any number of future providers.
- We are close to seeing PEG programming on UVerse if AT&T is willing to meet our expectations as to how those PEG channels will be broadcast.

Suzann – I just feel that we have citizens who are paying for this and not receiving it, and we need to get it settled. I just don't feel we are pushing hard enough.

Carl – I sense that the frustration shared by the council is also shared by the ITS Dept. and CATS. Listening to Suzann questioning, we might be willing to accept the provider's definition just to get the channels on the system. I would argue though most of have said that is not acceptable. As I look at the other states, and communities that are dealing with this question. It doesn't seem to be acceptable to them either for many of the same reasons we have addressed here. We are at the mercy of the IURC, city legal, and whatever the state legislature does. It will be a long struggle.

Suzann – The question is whether or not whose terms it will be on.

Eric – Any business is free to deliver services in a way that is most competitive for them. If you look at the content appearing on U-verse, they are suggesting something different for the PEG channels. Why? What is the advantage? Why are the PEG channels singled out to appear in a diminished way?

- **Rick** - We haven't had any complaint reports from the IURC since February. One was sent in March, but then they said it needed to be corrected and they haven't sent one since.

5. **Comcast** – No Report
6. **AT & T** - No Report

V. Old Business

Reports to City Council

Carl – Suzann volunteered to develop the report that will be given to the city council regarding last year's council's action.

Comcast, EAS, Local Emergency Overrides

Carl - No movement because we were waiting to see what would happen with the house resolution. I did share with the taskforce the information about HAZ Collect, and also asked the members; especially those assigned the responsibility about emergency overrides, whether they had heard about this proposal. The response was no.

Telecommunications Council Charter

Carl – What is the status?

Rick – No changes proposed right now. We will work on that as time and priorities permit.

VI. New Business

Carl – Mr. Satterfield just emailed more information about the HAZ Collect guidelines, all non-weather related. I will forward to the rest of you.

VII. Adjournment

Motion was made by Suzann Owen to adjourn the meeting; the motion was seconded by Carl Zager.

Next Regular Meeting

Tuesday June 2nd, 2009 at 7:30

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