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## Order

Client	Peter Folk
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Peter Folk: All right, I will call this meeting of the Champaign-Urbana Cable ... Special meeting of the Champaign-Urbana Cable and Telecommunications Commission to order at the Urbana City Building at 4:12 pm on Thursday, November 5th, 2015. If you would call the roll.

Sanford Hess: Chair Folk?

Peter Folk: Present.

Sanford Hess: Commissioner Foster?

Chris Foster: Present.

Sanford Hess: Commissioner Lukeman? Commissioner Rosales?

Giraldo Rosales: Here.

Sanford Hess: Vice-Chair Cinder?

Dale Cinder: Here.

Sanford Hess: Commissioner Wadsworth has told us that he will attempt to call in. Commissioner Walker?

Karen Walker: Here.

Peter Folk: Does anyone have any modifications to the agenda that they would like to oppose?

Dale Cinder: Potentially. I noticed that we are required to hold an officer's election after the first of July, the first meeting after the first of July which we didn't have, then it did not get done last meeting. We could schedule that for this meeting. It comes at an awkward time.

Peter Folk: Well, I think it's a good idea to do that here if ... Let's modify the agenda as such.

Dale Cinder: Yeah, I would propose it come after the discussion of the future of the Cable Commission.

Chris Foster: I second.

Peter Folk: All in favor?

All: Aye.

Peter Folk: Okay, the agenda is so modified. Now, the agenda reads, "New business. A) Future of the Cable Commission and B) Election of officers. That's the agenda item. Okay,

moving forward. The primary purpose of this meeting is to discuss what, if anything, we want to propose for the Cable Commission moving forward given the, I believe on ... Is it on the agenda for the next meeting?

Sanford Hess: We did not have the ability to make it on the meeting for the 9th because the agenda was fixed as of yesterday. It would probably be postponed 2 weeks to the 23rd.

Peter Folk: Okay, so given that there is a Council memo and ordinance change potentially being proposed on the 23rd ...

Sanford Hess: Correct.

Peter Folk: Of November, when I will be out of town, but the way, so I can't attend that meeting which basically eliminates the ordinance that creates the commission or the part of the ordinance which creates this commission. It doesn't explicitly disband the commission, but I think that there would be no ... I think we would have no role after that, so it would make no sense to disband.

Dale Cinder: As I understood from watching the video of the last meeting, City Attorney indicated that it would not dissolve the Commission, it would merely eliminate membership by Urbana appointments at which point I'm led to ask the question if the city of Champaign has had any discussions or considerations along these lines.

Karen Walker: At this time, we haven't. We're waiting to see what Urbana is going to do and what the Commission is going to do.

Peter Folk: That said, they did a couple of years ago, have a discussion along these lines and decided not to because Urbana stepped up and was willing to take on the financially taxing components of it. There were some similar discussions about the value of having people that are focused on this issue, but I do not have that in front of me. It might be worthwhile for us to try and track that down after this meeting and share it with the other commissioners.

With that on the table, I spoke with Mr. Hess, the I.T. Director for the city of Urbana about the specific issues that brought that to the table, but also about what, at least my vision was when I got involved with the Commission and what I would hope to see, going forward.

We came to a tentative ... An idea of something that we thought might present value to the City Councils while eliminating the burden on the cities which is, it's been a rough couple of years. I think the business community had a rough couple of years in the late 2000s and the government is having some rough years now, it seems like nothing's breaking either cities way really in the last 2 years and they're looking for every opportunity to pinch a few pennies. I support that.

Anything we can do to help in that regard is a good thing to do, in general.

Specifically the requests or the most burdensome thing for them was the taking of the minutes. If we were to move forward, I would suggest that it would be very important that we find a way take our own minutes that doesn't take paid city staff time. The meetings would still potentially be recorded, so that would facilitate those minutes, the minutes taking.

The other item that, I don't remember whether it was more of an issue for Sanford or for me, but I don't find it ... It doesn't feel good to me to go through this agenda and not have any really meaty items. It feels like a waste of everyone's time to show up when there's not something concrete and impactful to both the citizenry and potentially the City Councils to dig into.

I think some of the ... Both staff and Commissioners have expressed that related to the fact that the representatives of the 2 franchisees are not reliably showing up at the meetings. I personally don't ... I guess I don't see that as a requirement for us to have a valuable meeting. It seems to me they do show up when they have something to say. They would show up if we had something specific to ask them. Well, at least in my experience, they usually apologize for not being able to come to the meeting if they can't come.

If we made a point of inviting them and saying that we would like to them to provide some information, I've never found them to be not willing to do that, but we have to provide the other half of that coin that we have not actively brought important issues to the agenda, then brought a report on those issues up to the City Councils.

That can be as little ... Their FCC rulings, every couple of months, that have a significant impact on the direction that this industry is going, that the video and telecommunications industries are going. Those should be explained to the City Council member so that when they're talking about these items, they understand, "Well, 10 years ago, it was this way, but it's not going to be that way in 10 more years, so we shouldn't be worrying about or we should be worrying more about some specific aspects of it."

That was the other ... Another component was that we would need to try to produce more from a content perspective because if all we're doing is holding chairs, then I think it does make sense to not be doing that. That doesn't provide much value to anybody.

I guess the last item is there's a concern that because I own a company that does internet which is now a telecommunications facility, so even more than before this is a valid concern. There may be some bias on my part. I don't think I stop my own company when I'm here. It's definitely not an unreported conflict of interest, but I'm happy to ... I would rather not be Chair, actually. I don't like that role because I'm not always on time and I hate that I'm the one who's holding up the meeting. There was a suggestion that I should step down as Chair and we have a different Chair, I wholeheartedly support that for a variety of reasons. I'm happy to open the

floor to others.

Karen Walker: I don't see the conflict. To me, it's having some expertise. If you step down and we want somebody else that knows the industry, they're going to have a conflict in some spidery part of the business. We aren't going to be doing anything that impacts ISPs bottom line here, at least not directly, we aren't going to be making recommendations. As long as if it's just appearance, yeah, somebody has to explain the appearance to me because I don't even get it.

Sanford Hess: Well, I think one of the things that Peter discussed when we talked about this is in one way that we can make the commission more meaningful is to truly embrace the telecommunications part of it as well such that the commission is really providing guidance to Councils that says, "These are the trends in this industry."

For example, under telecommunications, as Peter mentioned, Fiber really is part of this discussion. There's an opportunity for this Commission to provide educational presentations to Council saying, "Here is the trends that are going in the fiber industry that impact your investment in the Fiber in the ground and a cable industry. This is how it impacts the citizens of the area," but if we expand the definition of telecommunication to include Fiber, which makes sense, Peter does have a company that installs Fiber. Then he'd be making recommend ... Or the Commission will be making recommendations about topics in which he has direct financial interest.

Karen Walker: Except we'd be recommending topics not vendors or business investments or ... The only conflict I can see is if there is money in here somehow. I don't see any correlation at all between what we're doing, any kind of educational function, in any way, somebody's company would benefit from it. I guess maybe somebody does, but I think it's a real stretch.

Giraldo Rosales: I have a question. I think one of the major issues, at least that's when I came on board, is that the cable companies use the right of ways that are public right of ways. They, basically, belong to the citizen of these 2 communities. That's why it's a joint commission because we do a joint contract with these providers.

I know that at that time, we could only tax the television segment of it which would be the cable, but because they started interchanging, providing television and their phone cables, AT&T doesn't pay that in easement because they've always had the right of way for telecommunications. They weren't paying the television video aspect of it.

Then, all of a sudden, cable started providing phone over IP. Basically, that was not being taxed, but there's revenue being generated by these 2 municipalities regarding profits that these 2 entities that are part of doing business in Champaign County are doing.

I think that the Commission served as a buffer between the citizens, their services

and these telecommunication companies. I think we played a crucial role, but if the cities don't feel that we have that role anymore, the providers are not here and there might be a conflict of interest because a third company might come in, I don't know, do you do satellite or do you also do cable Fiber?

Peter Folk: We don't yet do video on our network at all.

Giraldo Rosales: Has the city approached you in any one way to start paying a tax or a fee for the use of their right of ways?

Peter Folk: We pay ...

Giraldo Rosales: [Crosstalk 00:14:48] cable?

Peter Folk: There are ... This is also relevant to Comcast, so Comcast, for their phone, they do pay a tax on the phone service they provide and we pay a tax on the phone service we provide. We don't pay a tax on the internet service we provide. If we were to offer video, we would pay the video tax. I'm certain that AT&T does pay that tax as well for their video product. They don't pay it for ... Nobody pays any taxes on the internet products that they offer.

The big challenge from a financial standpoint for the cities and the relevance where some money might come in to this discussion is that at some point, most of the video that people consume will no longer be via the franchisee, via Comcast or AT&T directly, it'll be via an Apple TV or via a Google TV or something like that where they're getting their video content or app.

Right now, there's Sling TV from Dish, there's Playstation View from Sony and these are both, more or less, cable equivalent products that allow you to no longer buy a cable subscription. The revenue from those don't generate a tax that goes to the cities.

The FCC is going to have to deal with that at some point because it's a significant source of revenue for all of the communities that, basically, for every community in the U.S. I believe that we should be helping our communities make the decisions about how they want to push that forward to the extent that they do want to push that forward because they are losing revenue, but they're not losing it to AT&T and Comcast, they're losing it to Apple, Netflix and those providers.

Giraldo Rosales: But in order for you to get Apple and Netflix, you still need some kind of wiring to your house ...

Peter Folk: Which is not taxed.

Giraldo Rosales: Which is, pardon me?

Peter Folk: The internet feed though is not taxed.

Giraldo Rosales: It's not taxed for AT&T, but for cable, it is.

Peter Folk: No, it's not.

Giraldo Rosales: But the television aspect is.

Peter Folk: The television is. If you have a bill and it's \$50 television, \$50 internet, you're going to be taxed on the television and not on the internet.

Giraldo Rosales: But then looking at the citizenry, they use this commission to file their complaint against poor service of the providers. I remember them coming up in front and giving me those late night phone calls saying, "They changed my box. They raised the fees." We were the buffer because we had the providers here in the room and said, "Could you respond to somebody's complaints? What is the difficulties when you have this checkered square on the screen and I freezes? We're not getting any internet and we're losing viewing hours weekly because this freeze or this checkered board freeze on it."

I think that we were providing a service to the community because we were able to relay to them what the networks were doing and what was going with their television providers, their boxes and their box exchange. I remember cable was one of those that you could return the box right here on Race Street to them and basically get a new one or return your equipment there. It was a face-to-face customer service.

Well, we couldn't force the cable to do that because AT&T didn't have an office here that you could do that and exchange the equipment. When we started putting that pressure on AT&T, AT&T bypassed the Commission, bypassed the city of Champaign, bypassed Urbana and went down to Springfield and said, "Hey, you cannot regulate us. We don't have to provide service to the entire city. We will cherry-pick and only provide service to those households that could afford it and pay our services. We could market that, but we're not going to let you know the blueprint of our marketing strategy."

I think that cable had issues with that because they're saying, "We provide service to anybody that wants services. We're open and transparent, but if you're not obligating one, you can't obligate us either." I think, all along, through the process, and I think I've been sitting on this commission probably 8 years that we've been losing ground as a Commission.

Now that the cities are beginning to talk about bailing out, we have the providers not here today regarding the effectiveness of us putting them under pressure in camera, in front of the audience to get them to respond to some of the complaints that had been submitted to us.

Right now, if I was, well I am, a customer in the city of Champaign, who do I file my

complaint to? The city of Champaign used to take those complaints, they don't do that anymore. It's very difficult to get an AT&T unless you go and call India, which I have, and they're the one that are translating to me about the numbers on my box. They have to send somebody. Then when the guys comes into my house, start fidgeting with the box and changes the modem, he says, "It's not the modem, it's some humidity in the box, but I can't do anything about it until I change the modem 3 times."

He will sit there and change that modem 3 times and I still wasn't getting any reception losing services. I was highly upset and I'm pretty sure people are tired of talking with Indian representatives in India and not in the United States, not in Champaign like we had with Comcast. Comcast, we were able to have that customer service, face-to-face.

For me, if we're not going to be effective, we're just going to be an informative Board, I will have to resign because that's not what I signed up for. I didn't sign up here just to be proactive. Then with the Council, provide Council with information and feedback.

I think we were serving as a safety bell for the community, not so much for the city and the municipalities that are making \$450,000, Champaign makes them those profit which they charge 3%, Urbana charges 5% and I know ... I don't know, maybe you all could help me, how much profit do they make off for the providers. I think it's about 350,000, but they put it into UPTV.

Champaign puts it into the government system that they have which is one of the PEG channels. We have the opportunity to bring a 5th channel which that occurs every time we do a contract. We just signed a contract for 10 years several years ago and we could have probably had more bite into it where they could've probably provided the 5th PEG channel, but there was no push from either of the cities even though the commission wanted it, even though the community wanted it.

I know UPTV could use some better equipment to loan out to the citizenry of Urbana. Then they not only loan it to Urbana, but they loan it to Champaign County, anybody that could check it out, they could use it to their use and give the opportunity for anybody in this community to view and program their shows.

For me, this Commission has lost all the things that they did have. We used to have a \$7,000 budget. I don't know where that went to. We used to be able to send a commissioner on an annual basis to a telecommunication conference and then would bring back a lot of updated information as to what the latest trends were.

I don't know how about to get additional information unless I Google it. I think anybody could Google. I think the council members and all the [inaudible 00:22:54] could Google, but the opportunity to have a commissioner be trained and sent out to network with other national providers, cable providers, I thought it was

beneficial to not only this commission, but it was beneficial to the communities, both Urbana and Champaign.

I will personally like to see both providers here every time we have a meeting, so that they could respond to, "Why am I talking to somebody in India? Why am I having problems with my cable or my AT&T services?" Or "Is there a cheaper way to bundle my internet services as well as my phone and television?" I go back from one to the other and I keep flipping because even though it's net neutrality, they're trying to project that it's a little faster, so you have to pay a little more.

Then the tears of programming that you actually get, you're getting tears that, "ESPN, I don't watch ESPN," but you got ESPN, 1, 2, 3, 4, the football games and the baseball games. "I don't want to pay for those because I don't watch them," but they're part of the bundling system that one of the providers has.

I think there's a lot of work that this Commission could do other than to provide just input to Aldermans and the Council Member. I want to provide information to the citizens of this community, information that is beneficial to them and as well as informative to us. They have to respond to that.

I would like to see and hear in public [inaudible 00:24:24] item be that was not basically through the open meetings act, we cannot add anything to the agenda because it wasn't advertised 2 days ahead of time, 48 hours, then we will be curtailing the open meetings act because that was not the agenda.

I'm pretty sure there might have been a couple of people here saying, "I want to be able to nominate some people too." I would say that until we hear from Champaign and we hear from Urbana in the affirmative, that this Commission is going to continue intactfully the way the bylaws were written and guided, then I think it's just a wait and see type of situation. Champaign is doing a wait and see.

There is a memo that is being passed between Aldermen and the Mayor in Urbana that is still undecided, but if they pullout, then we're not going to be walking with one leg, we need both legs and we need the 100% support of both municipalities. We need for these companies to do business in Champaign, Urbana to be responsive to the community. That's my take on it.

Karen Walker: I agree with you and we brought this up at the last meeting, I said I was disappointed that operators weren't here, but your comments about our relationship with the public, in the past, some dramatic things happened with ... I don't know if any of you were living here 30 years ago, 100 people in the Champaign city council, [inaudible 00:26:00], and the poor people from Cablevision sitting there. I think it was over bringing in boxes.

This was MustSee TV, it was televised even then. Thanks mainly to Brian Silverman and our Congressman, that pressure caused Cablevision to back down. We were one of the last communities where Cablevision came in. Finally, after they got over

their shell shocks, some years later, they came in and pushed the boxes on everyone, but the Commission rallied people and the pressure ...

It had nothing to do with what we were legally allowed to do, it just had to do with public pressure. Maybe those days are over, maybe we will never get a [inaudible 00:26:53] crowd again because somebody wants to add a channel or add some technology, but I think some of the same things could still be happening.

I think sending a representative to NATOA, I think was a great value. The few times I went, it's a huge education, but even when someone else went, could come back, talk about it and bring back the materials. You can read it on the internet, but it's not the same. That's something we've lost. We would be more on top of things, I think, if we still had that annual contact and involvement with the industry.

Giraldo Rosales: That's the reason we wanted to have the university channel and [inaudible 00:27:43] channel because those channels were part of the PEG 4 series that we had that we actually printed information, a bookmark, I remember, they had the PEG channels and one was being advertised through our commission.

We submitted those through in the public libraries, at schools saying, "These are your public access channels. Take advantage of them, view them, get involved with local government." That also went out the window because I guess it's now more docile where you have to access the website and the cities to access the cable commissioner or anything pertaining to the PEG channels is buried.

I remember that some of the ... AT&T did not want to carry PEG channels because they were pretty much being provided by Comcast. Now they are because of a lot of complaints from the citizenry, but to me, we provide not only a service to the cities, but we provide a service to the companies to do business with the cities. The majority of the services is to the people in this community. I think we owe it to them.

Karen Walker: It wasn't too long ago, we had 8 meetings a year. We had 4 meetings and always 4 study sessions. The study sessions were full of content. Rick used to sometimes call them dog and pony shows. We had videos, we had outside experts come in. Some of that came from what people learned in NATOA, would come back, we talked about issues and we'd get people to come in and we would have, sometimes, an audience in here of 3, 4 people, that little bit bigger TV audience.

A lot of this is when digital was coming in and people were totally confused, then HD. Things were changing very fast and those were very informative. We probably don't have ... Maybe we don't have 4 study sessions' worth a year now, but probably a couple. I would think we could come up with some important issue and something that people are interested in and it affects what they paid for their entertainment, their internet. We could explore that, get some people in here and talk about it.

Sanford Hess: I'd like to emphasize that that was what Chair Folk and I talked about when we met last week. The vision that we laid out for the Commission is targeted towards next July. The Commission has an annual report that are disposed to prepare by July of each year.

From my understanding, that's not been prepared for a few years, but the vision that we talked about was to re-engage on those things, to get the study sessions going, to have what Peter described as the meat in the meetings such that there is real information being discussed and this Commission is bringing forward good information and putting that in the annual report to Council.

If that scenario plays out, I will fully support that staff time of organizing the meeting, attending these meetings and things like that, but I don't ... I wrote the memo. Now, the memo has actually not been sent to any of the Council members. The memo was written, I shared it with the Mayor and she discussed it with me, but I sent it to this Commission first so that you have the opportunity to discuss these things before it went to Council. It has not gone out to Council.

I would fully support the effort of this Commission to re-engage and give content to these meetings, but if these meetings don't go that direction, don't have the content, can't produce a report by July, that's the scenario where I think we just have to reflect that the times have changed.

This has become a much more complex discussion topic in general. We just had this discussion earlier within this meeting, there's some parts that are taxed, there are parts that are not taxed and there's a lot of conflation about, "Am I getting internet? Is this cable? Is this TV? Is this video?" There's a lot of terminology that overlaps.

There is an opportunity for this Commission to bring some clarity to that so that the decision-makers and the citizens understand what those impacts are, but that's something that you, as a Commission, really need to bring out. You're the Commission members. That's my challenge to the Commission is to take on this large task of trying to re-engage and make something meaningful about this before July.

If you are on board with that task, I will fully support and work with you to make that accomplishment to the best of my ability, but if you're not willing to take on that task, then that's when I'll send the memo to Council and just say, "Things have moved on."

Just to clarify one thing, one thing that we will continue to provide as a service to the citizens is to be the communicator to the cable companies of complaints. It is a function that Urbana is doing now and we have offered to continue doing it even if Urbana withdraws from the Commission, we will still provide that outlet for citizens to complain, we will forward the complaints on. Needless to say, they get a little more attention when they come from us on behalf of the citizens than sometimes

just from the citizens directly.

Giraldo Rosales: You'll also do it on behalf of Champaign or just Urbana?

Sanford Hess: Champaign tends to send the complaints ... Send them to us to do that effort.

Giraldo Rosales: Then local television, I could tell the citizens that they could call Urbana for their complaints and both AT&T and cable?

Sanford Hess: That is a true statement ...

Giraldo Rosales: You will communicate that to the providers indicating that they're providing poor service to our communities?

Sanford Hess: Yeah.

Peter Folk: I would suggest that if the ... I'm sorry, I don't ...

Giraldo Rosales: You're fine, you're the Chair.

Peter Folk: Okay. I think even so, I'm supposed to ... I don't know. It used to be that if you wanted to have something to say, you had to stand. Those were the good, old days, 1700s.

Sanford Hess: Don't do that because the video will get all [crosstalk 00:34:06]

Peter Folk: Okay. I would suggest that even that is a failing of the Commission. It shouldn't be that city staff that are doing that. That is our job. The only way that I know whether people are having a terrible Comcast experience are, I figure there's 20,000 household in Champaign Urbana, if I hear from one of them a year, which is about what I hear from, maybe 2 a year, then they must be doing a pretty good job. What we should be saying is not call Urbana, but call your Commissioner because it's our job to represent the citizens in that fight.

Giraldo Rosales: I will have to refute that because I think it's the responsibilities of the banks which is Urbana and Champaign to receive those fundings from these providers. I think they should provide additional staff time to be able to intake that because that's what they were doing before because I don't want to have people calling me at 2 or 3 in the morning instead on the phone, 1 or 2 hours like they have done. I'm like, "Okay, ma'am, I will try to get that done, that \$12 box is no longer good on cable," but I know that some of my providers, they do a good job in communicating with me and resolving a lot of the problems that I submit to them, but I think the city also has an obligation to respond to their citizens because they're getting the 5% and 3% profits from these companies. These companies are bleeding a lot of the senior citizens that are out here. They had to get rid of their old television or get a cable box.

Peter Folk: Right, I can see that perspective as well.

Giraldo Rosales: You can't just put in on the Commission. I don't want phone calls, 24 hours, 24/7. I don't work for the cable company, I don't work for the city and I don't get paid for that. I get paid to arbitrate and make sure that the process works, not only for the cities, but for the Commission and for the providers. They need one phone where they could call and they know that if they call at 10 in the morning, you will get recorded. That if they call ...

I work from 8-5. I can't be answering calls while I'm at work. After 5:00, I got a family I got to deal with, I got other commissions and other meetings too than to be dealing with citizen's complaint on a daily basis of some of the providers that are providing poor to no service. I know AT&T provides very poor service.

Their individuals, they come to your house, they work out of their van. They don't have a station, they just work out of their van and they go to their jobs, from job to job. That's the way they do it. I could feel for that senior citizen that's 80 years old that is used to watching the television show, and now it's on a different tier at a different price and is being fleeced. Don't call me for that. I don't know how much the city could do about that, but if you're now providing that service, I would like the audience to know that they could call you or they could call you, the city of Champaign.

Sanford Hess: Well, I would say that it's been going on for some time in that manner. Anyway, I think you brought up a good distinction between the types of things that the cities can take action on and the things they can't. If someone has defective equipment, I mean, there's not much we can do unless the cable company is refusing to take action, but in terms of complaints about moving channels between tiers, we can communicate those complaints.

Again, whatever weightiness that coming from the city, I don't know how far that carries, I know there was a discussion even here at the Commission a few meetings ago with regards to WGN moving to a different tier. Again, it gives us an opportunity to confront the providers with that feedback, but I think we also need to be realistic about what the power of this municipality or any municipality or this commission is to get these national companies to change their decisions about how they market and sell their products.

Karen Walker: Well, even better would be to confront them here. To have them sit here and have us go through the complaints and say, "Maybe we can't regulate this, we can't force you to not change tiers, but here's what's happening if you're concerned about your customers." They have to come up with an answer.

In the past, I think they have, even when it wasn't their policy, they've passed that on to corporate, so maybe it's a grain of sand on the beach, but it's a start. I think having a forum here is better than just, "Okay, we'll file something with the city of Urbana and we'll forward it on to them by email or something." I don't think it has

the same punch.

Peter Folk: Over the years, I've noticed that the number of complaints also has dramatically gone down. You mentioned that [inaudible 00:39:20] when there were cable boxes, whether the issues was whether people would have to have a cable box or not. Now, for the most part as I understand it, everybody has a cable box and everything.

To me, I don't feel like I hear enough on these topics from the citizenry. I can form my own opinion, I can form what is maybe an expert opinion. You can get an expert that will say many different things. What really, I would like to be able to bring to the table is this is what our communities actually think. It's in the law, that is our job to do community needs assessments to actually figure out what it is that people actually want, not just the people who happen to send me ... They're looking at the list of commissioners and they think Folks a nice name so they click my email address. I don't how people choose to ... Maybe, I guess, I'm the first one on the list, probably, but ...

Dale Cinder: You're the Chair.

Peter Folk: I'm the Chair, right.

Giraldo Rosales: When they call me, I refer them to you.

Peter Folk: There we go.

Karen Walker: Yeah, I think they look for women because I think I'll be more understanding.

Peter Folk: I know I don't get as many citizen contacts, documentable citizen contacts on this topic as I think I need to adequately represent truth here in this Commission. That's part of what I ... You talked about dog and pony shows, the reason we don't do those anymore is we that we haven't done them. It used to be, it was the cable company that was trying to sell us on the changes that they were making. They are the ones who put the effort into that. I think Rick also had a better role than I did in that ...

Karen Walker: Actually, I went out when digital was coming in, I went out and recruited 4 guys, a guy from Good Vibes, the university professor. We put the show on. The cable people sat here and watched, then answered questions. We tried to tie-in what they talked to us about trends and asked whatever the cable company was back then, "Are you keeping up with this? What are you doing?" There was some kind of back and forth.

There were times when the cable company came in with their videos and tried to impress us with how many new shopping channels they were adding, but several of those we did ourselves. They were a lot of work, but they were ... I learned a lot from them and I got comments from other people in town that actually watched

them.

Peter Folk: My read on Sanford's challenge is are we willing to do those kinds of things? While I tend to overcommit myself, I think they would be very valuable, especially given the major changes that are going on in people's daily pattern of use of this stuff, I think they're well-deserved.

There are really different ways that you can consume media today than a year ago that it's almost mainstream now to do things like Netflix and that kind of thing. We absolutely, I believe, it would be valuable for us to spend the time to get somebody from Good Vibes, somebody from Best Buy and Premier Sound, I know ... I don't want to bias anybody, I don't think this is being broadcast, so I'm safer there, if we can get them to do that and maybe a plug the local businesses a little bit, but whatever it is, we have to do it, we have to commit to doing it. We haven't. Maybe that's my failing, but it's not something I feel we can blame on the cities or the providers.

Karen Walker: What you mentioned before might be a great first topic or what you just mentioned now. How many people know that they don't have to pay \$180 to Comcast every month, that they could get Amazon Fire Sling TV? I don't even know ... I read about this all the time and I don't even know what all the options are. Maybe it would be good to have, "Here's all the things there are to choose from. Here are the plusses and the minuses and ..."

Peter Folk: It might be a way to get the providers in the room if they think that we're threatening them, their revenue stream also.

Giraldo Rosales: I have a question. I don't think we're receiving any complaints now because the system is working 100% or I think they just got tired of calling and not getting a response. They're not getting a response from many of the municipalities, they're not getting a response from their providers. It is difficult sometimes to get a hold of cable commissioners as well too.

I don't want to be cumbersome to the council or to the municipalities or to the providers. I believe in efficacy and efficiency. If that's the case, what would happen if this Commission disappears? What I would tend to do is every complaint that comes in, I will say, "Go to your City Council and in public participation, go out there and take your neighbors and read to them as to why are you having this disservice or this discourse with your cable company." I bet you that your municipalities will be dying to reestablish this Commission to buffer that. I bet you, they don't want people coming to complaining about their cable providers to their Council chambers because they have better things to do.

Because they have better things to do, they basically appointed us as advisers to them, "What do we do?" And to buffer some of that, but if I feel, if I can't buffer that, then open up Pandora's box and send them to Council. Send them to call Laura Pressing, to call Dave Fainon directly. Don't go to Council chambers, call them

and keep calling them until something gets done. I bet you, they'll put you and you to work, they won't put me to work and call me at the university and say, "Hey, Mr. Rosales, that cable hasn't been turned on. I called you on Monday and today's Thursday." They won't be calling me.

I think they just got tired of complaining and nothing gets done, and they're being fleeced by this community. I think anybody that does business in Champaign, Urbana should be regulated by the municipalities. They have to put certain blame on the municipalities that they're going to abandon this Commission. If they're going to abandon, I'll be the first one to walk away and I bet you, I'll send them all to the Mayor's office to go ahead and complain and I'll look at the camera.

I think that's the way up, but I think there's a more amicable way to do it, I think there's a more civil way to do it. I don't think you need to get upset. Usually, the squeaky screw gets the oil. If there's a problem, I'm pretty sure a lot of the providers ... I think Art has been excellent. It's been wonderful to work with Art. He's been here at every meeting, he's been very informative, he's been very patient.

I've said that people, they've ripped out my ear in conversation and I know they ripped up his ear, but the problem got resolved. I know that Art is there to troubleshoot a lot of the calls that we get, but there's a lot more calls that come in and it's from people that are just fed up with it. That's my 2 cents on this. What I move and propose ... I'm sorry, Chris.

Chris Foster: No, I'm fine.

Giraldo Rosales: What I move and propose is perhaps instead of a report because there's nothing to report on, we should write a memo as to our concerns to keep this Commission alive and write a very strong letter to both Council members ... Both Council and Aldermen and Mayors indicating what our frustrations had been through the years which are very many, I'll pull out my binder from every years that I'd been on this Commission. I'm pretty sure you all that are fairly new, except for Karen, I know Chris had been here in many hats, could articulate some of you frustrations that we've had. If not, I know that we could call Rich Atabury out of Central Casting and ask him to come down and get some testimonials.

Chris Foster: Something just that comes to my mind is do we want to continue as a Commission if the providers aren't part of the equation? At this point, they don't seem to be, so either, do we want to continue without that being part of the equation or do we see that there's things that we can do to make them part of the equation once again?

Obviously, everything changed, Comcast was very receptive, Art was great, but when competition came to town and the rules got changed as far as who had to do what, everything changed in regards to how things were dealt with in this commission. That's just the thing that's in my mind as far as the operators, do we

feel like we have a purpose if the operators don't deem us important or are there things that we can do for them to make them think that we're important again?

Karen Walker: Maybe one thing we could do, we get this packet for every meeting that has the cable complaints. As you pointed out, they've been shrinking perhaps because of Giraldo's theory there, but usually at the meetings, we just say, "Okay, there's a bunch of ... We've got all the paper work," and it's not mentioned. Maybe if we talked about it, if we talked, "Here are the kinds of customer service complaints that are happening and here's how it was resolved." If I were Art or the guy from AT&T, I'd want to be here if we were actually having a discussion of that and not just getting a pack and putting it in a recycling bin.

Dale Cinder: I also concur with the theory. I deem it to be a whole lot like the unemployment rate, after a certain amount of time, unemployment goes down because people stop looking for work. I do think people have gotten frustrated at the lack of activity or action that they've gotten from past complaints.

With regard to the willingness to participate of the franchisees, I share those concerns, but I also have a concern about the willingness of the city to look to us for advice. I know that in the past year when the ITV3 franchise came up for consideration, the City Attorney indicated no interest at all in having us participate in that and told Council members during the meeting on that topic.

I also sent an email to the Mayor immediately upon my learning of ITV3 as I intend to seek a franchise and gotten no response at all. There is a question in my mind as to what the city's interest is. For my own part, I would like to see some feedback from them before I'm much interested in continuing as a member of the Commission.

Giraldo Rosales: Thank you, Dale, for those comments. We serve at the leisure of both municipalities. If the municipalities don't feel that we're properly serving them or the citizens, then I don't think it's up to us to determine if we want to keep going. I think it's their opportunity to have part of the citizens to come and serve at their leisure.

I would hate to make a decision today or as part or a member of this Commission, then dissolve this and there'll be no other opportunity for any future Commissions because we made that decision. I think it's the wrong decision to make.

I think it's the municipalities that decide that this is the way to go because it's part of the contract or it's part of the bylaws or it's part of some statute that it is convenient and beneficial for them to have this Advisory Commission that is made up of professional, people that are in the field. I know Chris has been in the field for a long time. I'm not quite sure of Karen, I know she's been in the Commission a long time, regarding the nature of her job. I don't have any IT expertise other than a big mouth when I was sitting on City Council. I guess I still do, but other than that, these are supposed to be experts.

We get an expert from the university, an expert from Parkland, an expert representative that could communicate with City Councils and Aldermen, be able to communicate and cut through the chase and say, "The council is going to be full of people if you don't take action right now," but if they feel that I have no worth, then I walk away, but you can't tell me, "You think you're worth it?" I'll say, "Oh yeah, I'm worth it, I'm worth it" then still don't pay any attention to the Commission, they don't listen to the Commission especially when the contractual agreement and 10 year agreement and that will be forthcoming soon.

If we're not in place, then who's going to advise, not that they accepted our advice, but we were there and they knew that they could rely on us and some expertise regarding that. I know Rich Atabury was the IT in the Department of [inaudible 00:53:34] when he was sitting on Board.

Chris Foster: I do know that despite, while we weren't necessarily part of the negotiations for the franchise, we did do a pretty extensive needs assessment for that franchise. I know a lot of that information was taken into account and was part of the franchise agreement.

Peter Folk: You're talking about the most recent Comcast franchise not the ITV3 one?

Chris Foster: Correct.

Peter Folk: Okay, I've heard 2 things that seem like we ought to get the question out there and see what people are actually responding to. Chris asked, do we continue without the providers? Is there value that we have if they are not in those chairs?

I would suggest that we hear from everybody, but I'll take the first step and say I feel, absolutely, I feel that we're not here for them, we're here for some combination of the City Councils and the public. I wouldn't have done this if all I was doing was reporting to Comcast. I might have done it if all I was doing was reporting to the City Councils, but when I took the job, what I imagined I was doing was I was representing the public to the Councils.

To me, they're not even in that pack. They can do whatever they want here or not, it's up to us to make sure that information about what they're doing gets up to the Councils. We actually have subpoena power, technically, if we wanted to subpoena them to provide some information.

I don't know if it's ever been used, but it's in the law, but to me, the answer to would there still be value in this Commission if the providers were not actively engaged? It's yes and we can't really expect them to be actively engaged unless we are providing that role. It's this squeaky screw that gets the oil. We have to help create that squeaky screw if we're going to expect them to do anything other than maximize their own profits. That's my answer to that.

There was the question that actually Dale ... Commissioner Cinder and Rosales brought up that I'll ... Let's go through that one with everybody and see where we stand as a Commission on that question, then I'll address the other one. Karen do you have ... Or Miss Walker?

Karen Walker: I agree. I don't think that they're critical here, but I think they make what we're doing much more practical. I think we need to give them, as you mentioned before, have some content to the meetings and maybe talk more about the complaints, give them a reason to want to be here.

Peter Folk: I'll also mention that we don't make much effort to get this on their calendar. As far as I can tell, they maybe have it on their calendar and they think, "Maybe I'll attend," but we don't check with them 2 weeks before, "Hey, want to make sure that you're able to attend." Not that we should really have to maybe, but if we actually want them to attend, they're willing as far as I can tell. It's just a matter of us trying to make that real.

Dale Cinder: I think there are actually 3 legs to the stool and the other is the public. For the time that I have served as Commissioner, we have had very few members of the public actually come before us. I remember, there used to be one member who showed up quite routinely, although she has not shown up recently.

I can only remember 1 or other instances in which a member of the public has made an appearance to the Commission. I would hope that we could find some way to encourage the public to attend and to express their concerns and opinions. Hopefully, some will view this session and decide to attend or at least email us with regard to their concerns.

Peter Folk: Just one note, this is not being broadcast, it's being recorded, but it is being broadcast.

Dale Cinder: Yes, I'm aware of this not being broadcast, but as I understand it, the intent is that it be broadcast at a later date.

Peter Folk: Oh, okay. I don't know that for sure, but yeah. Three legs of the stool, that's the public, the providers and the Council? Okay.

Commissioner Rosales, regarding Chris' question or Commissioner Foster's question, do we continue forward without providers. Is there a value to the Commission if the providers are not actively engaged?

Giraldo Rosales: Is there anything that would require them to attend in the bylaws or in the contract that we signed as a commitment?

Dale Cinder: Not to my knowledge. I've recently reviewed City Code on the matter. As Chair Folk mentions, we do have the power to, not exactly subpoena, but to require attendance and certain information. I don't think the power exists to routinely

require them to attend our meetings.

Giraldo Rosales: I'm looking in front of me and I see already the meeting set from January 2016 all the way through October. In January, April, July and October, we could send that that and just give them a reminder, a week with the agenda that's going to be included. If they would like to see anything added to the agenda, I think that Rich used to do that to the Commissioners, if you'd like to see anything added to the agenda prior to posting the agenda, but the meetings are already pretty much here and it's just a matter of getting it to them.

I don't want to shame them to get them here and say they don't care that's why they're not here, because if I say that they don't care, they'll say, "Well, you didn't give us the benefit of the doubt because we do care because we've never been invited." This is an invitation that our meetings are posted here. They should be posted on the City's website, I believe, right? They should be out there so there's no reason why you don't check once in a while to see what some of the obligations you have to the public you serve, but I think 4 meetings a year, it's not too much out of their way.

I don't think that people will come into our council chambers here to report complaints because I'm not going to wait up to 3 months to report a complaint and then hear from the Commission or hear from the providers that I can look at them face-to-face and say, "You're providing shabby services."

If we let them know that we also are a way to input complaints on these days, we could also begin to take complaints when we meet here and have public participation, be able to take notes and see what their complaints are. Maybe it's not a cable box complaint or an AT&T 4 foot box complaint, I think it might be at the hub, because I remember Art saying, "It's at the hub, it's not anything wrong with the television or with the modem, it's at the hub" and they could fix it just by a simple phone call.

I don't think it's a big commitment for them to do business with Champaign to come 4 times a year. I would like to see them every time I come here. If I could set some time aside from my busy schedule to be here, I think they should do. They do business and they're making profits out of the citizens here. That's the way I feel.

Whether it's on the constitution or bylaws, or contract, it's an obligation that they have of service. I think the city is responsible also that anybody that does business in the city needs to be in compliance ADA and they're required, food to be certain temperatures, ramps to be a certain height and no smoking in certain facilities, they impose that and the county also imposes that. I think that we should also impose that of these providers that are using and utilizing our right of way. It's not too much to ask.

Chris Foster: I certainly think that we have value, even if the providers are not here. I did pose the question, but I just really was ... This is a thought that I thought should be

discussed, that is part of the value we do provide though is being able to talk with the providers.

When I first was involved with this in my time with Urbana, I don't remember many times when they were not here, they were here regularly, always gave a report, but like I said, when competition came to town, when one group didn't have to do something, then the other group felt like, "Well, then why do I need to do it too?"

I do think there's things that we can do without the providers being here, but I just thought it was an important question to be posed. Also, I was not aware that ... I just thought that it was just standing dates on their calendar from year-to-year. I just thought that maybe they do. I thought that they knew when we met quarterly in that they always were aware of our meeting times.

Sanford Hess: Chair Folk, correct me if I'm wrong, they are on the distribution list for the ...

Peter Folk: Yeah, they know about the meetings. I normally get from the AT&T rep an apology that he wasn't able to attend. Normally, it's along the lines of we didn't tell him enough in advance. I haven't been busy enough to go back, '3 months isn't enough of an advance'. Commissioner Rosales said that there's a belligerent way to do it in a less belligerent way. I think the easy to do is we try and take ownership of the issue. We're the ones who want them here, so let's ask them.

Karen Walker: One idea might be to actually give them something to talk about. You might say, "We've been going through the complaints and there are a lot of complaints about unburied cable. Maybe it'd be a good time for you to come and talk for 5 minutes about that and tell everybody ..." Now, they would at least have a little bit more purpose than just to show up and say the same old thing.

Peter Folk: Okay, so the other question was, if the Councils don't want us, why are we even bothering? That's not really a question, but it was an expression from Commissioner Cinder and Rosales.

Dale Cinder: Let me relate a story from about 25 years ago when I was a member of a management of a laboratory on campus. We had an interim Director who came in to the Senior's Management meeting one day and opened the meeting by saying that when he request advice from people, he expects people to take it seriously and give it its due consideration and provide him with advice.

When receives that advice, he feels obligated to likewise give a serious consideration, which at that time, I was scratching my head wondering what's this all about because he hasn't asked us for any advice lately, but he then went on to say that he felt no such obligation towards unsolicited advice, sort of like you can lead a horse to water, but you can't make him drink.

We can give all the advice to Council that they want or that we want, but unless it's something they are eager to consume or willing to consume, there's little point to

it. I would note that the City Attorney's indication that he saw no role for the Commission and the latest franchise agreement did come as a response to a question from one of the Council members about why the Commission was not involved.

Peter Folk: Okay, so that's an important distinction. I think it's relevant to separate the Mayors and city staff from the council proper as elected officials. I know the Mayors [inaudible 01:07:46], in both, it's official, but [inaudible 01:07:50], he's also the Chief Executive. One question is ... Okay ... Let me ... Go ahead.

Dale Cinder: Can I request about a 3 minute recess here?

Peter Folk: I think it's a great idea.

Dale Cinder: Okay.

Peter Folk: Sorry, seconded?

Chris Foster: Second.

Peter Folk: All in favor?

All: Aye.

Peter Folk: So moved.

Everybody's back, so I will call the meeting back to order. The basic concern is that with the proposed legislative or ordinance change and the similar motion that went through Champaign a couple of years ago, we don't want to be ... The response from or the thought from Commissioner Cinder and Rosales was we're not here to toot our own horn, we're here to provide a service for the Commission's or the Council's, the City Council's. If that service is not needed or wanted, we'll, it's not our choice whether it's needed or wanted, it's their choice whether it's needed or wanted. Go ahead, Stanford.

Sanford Hess: I think it's a good analogy, but I think in this case ... I'm going to put off to the side the last franchise which is maybe a separate discussion, but in general, Council's soliciting your advice in the form of your yearly report, so they are asking for advice, but no advice has been forthcoming. I think there is an open ear from Council to hear the things, but again, I believe it's up to this Commission to then say something.

Dale Cinder: Also, with respect to the most recent franchise agreement, whether it was indicated by Council, the Mayor, City Attorney or anyone else if they wanted our advice, it is explicitly in our mandate to hold public hearings regarding that and we did not do that, but in our partial defense, there was very little time provided between the time we became aware of this consideration and the time the Council

[inaudible 01:10:39]. I concur, we need to actually take up the load and do the work.

Peter Folk: To weigh in on that topic, I wholeheartedly agree with Stanford that when I've talked with Council members, not so much the staff and Mayors with the exception of Stanford, with the legal staff, they're generally very receptive and interested in information.

I feel like we don't provide enough feedback to them because this industry does change a lot. It has a very deep and dramatic impact on people's lives. We should be giving them information that is timely so that they recognize that we are a resource. The fact that we have not done that, it's a chicken in the egg situation. We can't expect them to depend on us if we have not stepped up to the plate in the past and we haven't stepped up in the plate in 5 years or something like that.

We haven't really done a proactive job of getting them the information we need. Now, the counter is, well, they haven't asked us, but a lot of this stuff happens ... It's not top down, it's not from the Council's down, it's the industry and the public are having an interaction and it's our job to observe that interaction and do something ... Provide information when we think that there's something interesting going on.

I don't feel we've done that. I'm 100% ... That's me, it's on me. I feel bad about it myself, but if we're going to move forward, we, as a Commission, have to embrace that and say we're all going to make an effort to observe these things and at least package them in the end of the year report, but probably also find when there's a common current in the industry or in the public about some topic, we got ought to be the first ones that they learn about it from.

They shouldn't learn about it through some law in Washington, they ought to learn about it through us. It's my personal opinion. If we were to do that, I think they would ask us when they have a question on the topic because they would recognize that we're putting in the time to get real answers. It's my opinion.

Giraldo Rosales: I have a few questions. When was the last time our report was submitted?

Sanford Hess: I was told, 2012.

Giraldo Rosales: 2012. That was the last time we actually had a real budget?

Sanford Hess: Hang on.

Dale Cinder: I believe 2013. I believe we're missing '14 and '15. I took a look and I did find in the minutes of 2013 where we did approve a report. I actually saw the report.

Sanford Hess: I stand corrected.

Giraldo Rosales: When was our budget removed from this Commission? We had \$7,000 budget, annual budget.

Sanford Hess: I do not know. That predated my time with the City.

Giraldo Rosales: Right, because that's part of the report which is how did we spend our money? We would put down that we went to NATOA, we would put down that we did publications and that we were actually registering some of the complaints, that was part of our report, the financial reporting.

In lieu of a report, we also had Council and Aldermen on this Commission that reported back to those Councils. I was one of those that sat on City Council that would report back. I was appointed by the Mayor during that period of time, Gerald Schweighart, that appointed me to this Commission to report back to the Council, so I took information from this Commission back to the Council because I would come to meetings.

That agreement and that partnership must've dissolved in some kind of way that it's now the City's don't even want to appoint anybody, it's free for all. It's a little crazy. I felt honored to be appointed by a Mayor to do something for them, so I think it holds high on service ... I'm appointed to serve Illinois Commission by a Governor Rauner, but I was also appointed to the same Commission by Patt Quinn.

It doesn't matter who's in office, except it's an appointment by an important individual that is requiring my services to do a task that they don't have time to do and they don't have staff to do, but I remember there was a Council member and Alderman when I first started, that would report back. I remember we had a budget that we had to be accounted for and that was the process of reporting back so we could tell them how we spent our money and how we propose to spend it for next year.

I remember, we would go ahead and part of that report would be who is going to the next NATOA meeting because we were selected during the summer so that we could put it in the report that we need a budget for next year because we're sending Commissioners X, Y and Z to NATOA, so please grant us this budget because we've given you a review of how your money was spent and it was in good faith, but if there's no money there, what are we reporting on?

The complaints that the providers get, that was being done online. How many meetings we hold for. What kind of report are you all looking for that is moving you towards dissolving something that you all put together? But if you all don't feel that we're important enough to provide information to the Council or to the citizens, then dissolve this. We're doing you a favor, you're not doing us a favor. We work on your behalf, but we don't just work for ourselves, but I do agree with Folk that, basically, I think the citizens need information and I think some of the Aldermen and Council would like to have the latest technology of what's going on.

I think the best people to say that is our providers, not us. We don't know what the packaging, bundling and [inaudible 01:17:12] is, we don't know what it is unless we have those services. We get that bill at the end of the day, there's a service charge. I didn't notice we're paying extra money for gasoline for our garbage disposal. They're charging now an additional tax for gasoline. Unless I look at the bill, I don't know what they're charging me for. This additional taxes that it's just not the services that they're providing, it's a bunch of other taxes and equipment that they have. All the equipment, it seems like I'm purchasing the equipment, it is mine.

I think that was part of what was in the report, but you cannot ask us to report on something that we don't have, something that no longer is there because there's no Council members onboard. I think the last one that was appointed from the City of Champaign was Will Kyles. He never attended from what I could recall. I think it was Schmidt or Smith that was the last one from Urbana that was appointed to this Commission. I don't remember him in the distant past, but they don't come anymore.

I would have to put that pressure on the Councils. If they still want us to serve, I am willing to serve because that's all I do all day, is to serve my community in many different boards and commissions. I don't mind doing that, I don't mind coming back and meeting 4 times a year and doing another 4 for study sessions so that we could inform the public of new changing technology, I don't mind doing it.

If you're asking me, "Well [inaudible 01:18:50]," but if you're saying, "If you don't give me a report and then you all go take a walk." Well, then you need to reinstitute those things that we had before. They were prevalent and they were the meat and potatoes of what this Commission does. I don't think ... Now it's just gravy. If it's so gravy, it's so watered down that, why are we here other than holding a seat?

Peter Folk: You want to comment?

Chris Foster: I was soaking it all in. I tend to somewhat agree with Commissioner Rosales as far as if they don't feel like we have a purpose anymore, then as much as I hate to say it and I'm not sure why you continue if the people that you're reporting to don't deem you important.

Peter Folk: I'll ask a question to Mr. Rosales. As I said, I feel like it's a chicken and the egg issue, that we have failed to do what they need from us which is provide them with timely information. There's two things. 1) They're not actually saying, "We want to disband the commission." It's staff that is suggesting that that is a route that the council might take. They haven't had an opportunity to even see the discussion as far as I know yet. That said, if the question were put to them, I don't think we would have a very strong case to be made for us right now.

The question that I would ask you is do you think that it's worthwhile for us to try or the right thing to do for us to try and make that case for ourselves, in other

words, set some goals of providing the kind of input that we provided in the past and then see whether they start viewing us as a valuable resource at that point.

Giraldo Rosales: My question would be, are the other boards and commissions also doing an annual report that they have to submit to the cities?

Sanford Hess: I don't know all the details on the other boards and commissions but I will tell you that a number of them they meet. For example, Just recently, there was a traffic stop task force which met in the purpose of creating a report so there is a defined output that they're looking for from the boards and commissions.

Some of them are ongoing commissions that hear zoning discussions and things like that which is a little different because there's an interaction that comes and goes but I think we are more in the type that there's a concrete output that they're looking for because we're not adjudicating on zoning hearings.

We're not dealing with issues on a day to day basis. We're here to inform and if the annual report has nothing more than how the commission spent money that was allocated to it, I also agree I don't see much of a point to it.

In my mind, the annual report would be more of a opportunity for this commission to digest and present the information you've learned from your study sessions and informed council, "Here is what we see as key important trends in this industry and these are the things that we need to educate them on." To me, that's what I think should be in the annual report. That's the meat that I feel is missing and we're just left with the gravy.

Giraldo Rosales: You can't compare the racial task force, the iDot task force because they had a lot of heat on them from the citizens saying that there is a racial disparity and we can go ahead and look at the dynamics of the racial disparity in Urbana in particularly because they came to county board as well and we created a task force and that's why a report is needed.

It's like, "What were your findings?" We had no findings here other than updates. The updates were usually provided through a televised study session. I understand that you would like to have an annual report but you can't compare one task force with the responsibilities of this commission because that is a specifically task that is not going to be ongoing.

This commission has been going for many years, running seamless but we just ... Technology has changed and we have not changed with the technology.

Chris Foster: One thing I would I would like to comment on about the annual report is that I know that there used to be a report for each channel that would be in that. Just mainly what they did as far as programing, how many man hours, whatnot.

While good practice for the stations and maybe the commissioners to know, I am

curious as far as what that provided the council as far as betterment for the ... I don't know exactly how to put it but I think [inaudible 01:24:08].

Dale Cinder: I think part of the problem is that our mandate from the city code is greatly in need of revision. The regulatory structure has changed a lot, for one thing. I have highlighted here the section on reports in city code; comes under Section F: Powers, Duties and Functions; subsection six:

Submit an annual report within 60 day from the Cable and Telecommunications Commission receipt of grantees report to the City Councils which shall include but not be limited to the total number of hours of utilization of access channels, review of any plans submitted during the year by the grantee and for development of new services and hourly subtotals for various programming categories.

It's basically a report on a report.

Giraldo Rosales: Right and I do recall that Urbana received some accolades and commendations regarding some public programming about a year ago. They were showing those award winning, nationally award winning programming that they presented in NATOA.

NATOA was something that we had membership of that was part of our budget that we paid not only for sending a commissioner but membership of NATOA to participate and submit our stuff as well too.

Dale Cinder: With regard to budget, the following section has to do with budget. It requires us to submit an annual budget request and so it's my recollection that it's been indicated to us that there's no money available to fulfill a budget request but by darn, I'd sure go ahead and submit one anyway. The most that they can do is say, "No."

Karen Walker: One thing we used to do and it is easier to write a report when you have a budget that funds activities but we used to do a lot more publicity and public engagement with an insert, hyping the PEG channels in their cable bills, with their website we did the bookmarks. I think one time we even had a booth at the Sweetcorn Festival.

I mean, we were getting the word out and I think maybe the PEG channels profile has suffered in recent years. Before people were finding information on it in their cable bills but the city didn't print that for us. We printed that out of our own \$5000 dollar budget.

Chris Foster: I don't remember for sure but I feel like maybe Comcast indicated had indicated that they were no longer going to be able to do the inserts but I can't say if that's for sure. That is definitely ... That is one of the big things we spent our budget on.

Peter Folk: The main reason I think that the profile of those channels has waned is that people no longer channel surf with the up and down arrow of their thing. They use the

guide and you don't see the channels show up. As a child, I always wondered what that UI7 channel was. It always had something weird on it, often a different language. It was really wild.

I knew about it because you had to go from three to eight or whatever the channels were. I don't do that anymore. Everything is DVR'd so it's a matter of not keeping up with the times. The PEG channels are still producing great content. I think both stations have received NATOA Awards this year or maybe one station received an NATOA Award and one received an award from a different national organization.

They're both producing great content. Champagne is still a member of NATOA and still sends somebody to NATOA but it's not a cable commissioner. It's somebody from the Champagne staff. I feel like if we requested it this year, if we put in a budget request in right now, that would be a bad move. We would be asking for trouble but ...

Karen Walker: It would be bold.

Peter Folk: If we make some strong ... It would be bold. If we made some strong cases that we were a valuable resource to the councils, then we could conceivably say ... You know, in years past, we got a lot of good value from NATOA. They sent me the first year I was on the council and I'll agree, it was an amazingly informative experience and I wouldn't know a lot of the stuff I know now on this topic, I learned a lot of it at that conference.

Somehow, I don't even know how but I do think it's a valuable thing to do but I don't think it's something that we are in a place to ask for right now because we haven't done our annual report over the last few years and we haven't been the first person that they hear from about new trends in either the industry.

We haven't effectively collected complaints. I agree with you that probably, complaints have diminished because of apathy. You're only going to cry wolf a certain number of times and then you just going to let him eat your foot. We as a commission, if we want something to change in that area, we need to raise the profile of the complaints and we need to be the resource that they need even if they're not explicitly asking for it.

They haven't explicitly said, "We don't want this stuff." They have just not explicitly asked for it. That's my two cents.

Giraldo Rosales: I would help you with that report if that's what they need and be able to also put future requests of changes that we would like to propose as a commission to both cities regarding moving forward. You could ask for a report but we would like to have support not only financially but morally and be able to reestablish a lot of the things that were there before as a request so that when we report, we can report on all four PEG channels, what they're doing, what awards they've done and that's

how the community gets what they're receiving from that franchise agreement of that 5% or 3% that they're getting. Each city is benefiting from it.

That's part of that report, that that report includes Champagne and Urbana and how those PEG channels are utilized not just the activity of the commission. If you wanted just the activity of the commission, we have done very little in four meetings.

If we give you a report on just four meetings, it's just looking at the agenda but we also need to file the complaints that they've received and what types of complaints. I believe at one time we used to break them down into different categories as well.

I think that's important too because it might be a hub problem or system problem or a humidity or moisture or a box problem or a modem problem or equipment. I think that report that you're asking for is much more extensive than just the four meetings that we meet on an annual basis.

If you're asking for a report, I'm laughing and say, "Wait a minute, everything is not in place for us to create a report especially put it off on fault to go ahead and write one and pull a rabbit out of his hat. I don't think that's possible.

We're all here as volunteers to assist you with that. You could probably draft something so that we could look at and then add on to it and then you could also get the cities to provide you with additional information that you probably don't know of all the things that they do on a regular basis; what they announce on their PEG channels.

I do remember that Champagne used to make announcements for their PEG channels on their site as well. There's more informational things about the city because it was a city government channel but they also did some advertisement on the commission and the PEG channels altogether.

As well as we could put it to the bumper for the providers, we could put it to bumper for Parkland and the UFI. What I've heard of the UFI is that it's only students that are enrolled in the College of Communication and that semester are able to use that PEG channels.

That's why you saw a lot of weird stuff there because these were just undergraduate students experimenting. It wasn't open to all university students. They had the state of the art equipment and they had accessibility to that PEG channel. It wasn't utilized by the entire community. It wasn't even utilized by all students in the college communication.

It was only utilized by those students that paid tuition. It was very difficult for them to give a report on what their little class projects were, semester wise; maybe 30, 40 students.

Karen Walker: Well, the whole channel used to be canned, scholar news reports for years and years. Maybe that's the weird [crosstalk 01:33:58] ...

Giraldo Rosales: 95% Scholar; I remember that ...

Karen Walker: The Romanian news the ...

Chris Foster: They were groomed for that for years and they might find that they changed because of it.

Sanford Hess: I'd like to note that I think, this from Urbana's perspective, we're very proud of our PEG station. It's also well represented by UPTV commission. We actually have an entire commission dedicated to UPTV. I would also see some duplication of effort if this commission were to deem it necessary to report on the PEG channel use of Urbana.

I understand the idea of aggregating the reports from other entities makes some sense but I think that we need to also be aware that there's already that communication to council going on about UPTV on an ongoing basis.

Giraldo Rosales: But you have to understand that this is a joint commission so you're information is very valuable to Champagne and perhaps they can learn something from Urbana because we've been trying to also force Champagne to be more public access like Urbana.

We're very proud in this community in both cities of what UPTV is doing. I think again, it's award winning productions and we're very proud of the work that you do but one doesn't substitute for the other even if it's replicated, at least now, it's being shared by the commission, it's being shared by the city of Champagne and they can look at the good work that you're doing.

What they're doing, they're closed. There's a governmental access and that's it. Nobody from the outside can come in use their equipment or do anything with that because it's only run for city council and board meetings and that's it. We're trying to get also the city of Champagne to be a little bit more open with all those fundings that they get from all those providers to provide the citizens with an opportunity to do their own programming; of their programs and activities in their community.

Again, you all do a fabulous job but I would hate to you not to report anything of the things that you do in your commission in your city and not report it to the city of Champagne and the commission itself. So, it's not duplicated.

Chris Foster: I'm going to have to leave in a few minutes, so I apologize for that but I did want to note which I mentioned this at the last meeting as well but while I am on the commission, I am a representative of Parkland and that is a concern that I do have.

If this does dissolve, where does Parkland stand as far as in the road of information? I don't foresee anything happening in this regard but you just never know what happens over time. Let's say the next franchise comes up and Comcast says, "We need some channels back. Champagne, why don't we do this to that? We'll give you some more money and we'll eliminate that Parkland channel."

Then it's done, signed, sealed and then I get an email that says ... Hopefully, that's not something that occurs. I'm obviously just putting a worst case scenario out there. Not having this and not being a representative of Parkland on the commission like this would lose that; my information highway and as far as something like that is in regard to that.

Dale Cinder: I'm hearing considerable enthusiasm from five members of the commission with regard to continuing and hitching up our horse to the wagons. It's my understanding the initiative to consider no longer supporting the commission originated with you, Sanford. Is that correct?

Sanford Hess: That's correct. I brought the action item up in terms of bringing it to council. It was brought to me by staff on the recommendation of Rick Atterbury, the former chair.

Dale Cinder: At this point, what's your feeling with regard to this meeting and what's been talked about here?

Sanford Hess: How long do you have, Chris? I'll make it very brief. My feeling is that I'm encouraged at the desire to engage. At the same time, I feel that there needs to be a commitment to do that. Were there to be a January meeting and we have the same type of agenda we've had before and a March meeting and it's the same type of agenda we've had before, I don't see anything changing.

I see a real opportunity here. I'm thrilled at the vibrant discussion that we've had. I'd like to see some concrete results from that; some commitment, motion, decision by this commission in terms of its own future.

I would always, always welcome that should I proceed to submit my memo of recommendation to council, that the commission may, as Commissioner Rosales pointed out, come out with a sort of response or other inputs. I encourage that. I want this to be a discussion.

Dale Cinder: With that, I would propose that we schedule another special meeting for the purpose of working on an annual report to get ourselves up to date with respect to that requirement. I would so move.

Giraldo Rosales: I would second that.

Chris Foster: Would that be for 2015?

Dale Cinder: That would be for 2015. I don't think I see a whole lot of point of going back to 2014 and filling that hole.

Karen Walker: Can that be the January meeting? We were already talking before about one of the changes to make is not having four meetings if we didn't have four meetings worth of good stuff. Without that, it's coming up in January ...

Chris Foster: When we say the report's for 2015, are we meaning 15-16; the report that would be due in whatever, June, July of '16. Is that what we're referring to?

Dale Cinder: It would be the report which would have been due ...

Chris Foster: So, we're talking '14-'15 not '15-16?

Dale Cinder: Just '15 or one report terminating in the year 2015.

Sanford Hess: The report that would have been filed in July 2015.

Chris Foster: Right. Okay.

Peter Folk: Any other discussion on the topic? The motion didn't address the timing of that meeting. It suggests a special meeting not the regular meeting but it didn't address the time.

Chris Foster: Can I just for my understanding ... Am I understanding that we're talking about making our January meeting that of putting our report together to make up for the one that was not handed in last year. My understanding from you then that it's not moving forward then in November, that there's time being given for us to get our ducks in a row?

Peter Folk: I don't know how average rules works with this but I would suggest that the mover and the second might want to withdraw the motion and first make a motion accepting the challenge of reengaging ourselves with the cities and the public and the providers; the three legs of the stool that you mentioned ...

Dale Cinder: Yes, yes. I think that's an appropriate way to proceed and I withdraw my motion.

Giraldo Rosales: And I withdraw my motion to the motion.

Peter Folk: Do you want to make a different motion? This is why I hate being chair.

Giraldo Rosales: Put a January date on it?

Karen Walker: How about I move in an effort to affirm a different direction in this engagement that we devote the main agenda item in the January meeting to finishing up this report and perhaps working on some kind of document that outlines what we're going to be doing in the future.

Chris Foster: Second.

Peter Folk: All in favor?

All: Aye.

Chris Foster: That was a second by Foster? Is that correct?

Peter Folk: Are there other motions or discussions on the topic of the future of the Cable Commission? Go ahead.

Sanford Hess: I was going to say, Commissioner Walker talked about some of the study sessions that have been in the past. Maybe another appropriate one would be to schedule one of them for March? I'm sorry, April? When's our meeting? April.

Such that given four months is good amount of time to plan something that could be ... You've got to line up speakers and figure out who's going to be there and what the topics are so ...

Karen Walker: That could be another agenda item for January.

Giraldo Rosales: Right, that's what I would think.

Karen Walker: Talking about topics for that ...

Giraldo Rosales: I wouldn't want to move too far ahead.

Peter Folk: The motion from Commissioner Walker then is an additional agenda item for the January meeting ...

Karen Walker: Although do we really need a motion just to have an agenda item added.

Peter Folk: No.

Karen Walker: You're the king. You can add them.

Giraldo Rosales: We could always suspend the rules.

Dale Cinder: Believe me, I've considered that.

Peter Folk: I think with the number of mistakes I make, they're already kind of doing that.

Giraldo Rosales: You're doing fine.

Peter Folk: I'll put it in the record then that I also think that it's a very good idea. If I am chair at the time, I'll make sure that there are also agenda items for identifying key changes

in the industry that would benefit from a dog and pony show and suggesting times for such ...

Karen Walker: And let's come up with another name for it.

Peter Folk: Oh, I think it's good.

Karen Walker: I guess it's kind of descriptive.

Sanford Hess: Then, one other agenda item would be elections within the commission?

Peter Folk: Sure.

Karen Walker: That takes about 30 seconds.

Peter Folk: Not if you're [crosstalk 01:45:22]. I'll address the bias thing. I definitely have felt push back from city staff that I am not representing the interests of the community; I'm representing the interests of myself. Even if I know that I'm representing the interests of the community as best I can given the experiences I've had and even if you think I am doing that, the fact that one of the three legs of our stools doesn't trust me, to me says that I'm bad in this role.

Even if I would continue to be a valuable member of the commission which I think that's the case, the fact that these recommendations come from me as chair, it taints them.

Giraldo Rosales: Chairman Folk, 10 I think that there's a perceived conflict of interest. I don't think there's an economic conflict of interest. I don't think that it is a conflict of interest. If it is a conflict of interest then we ought to get a legal opinion from whoever is questioning your commitment to this board.

Peter Folk: Nobody's actively questioning it. It's just it's ...

Giraldo Rosales: If it Urbana, I think it should be Urbana legal to say, "Let's see where the perception of conflict of interest is and there is none now that we have it" ...

Karen Walker: Get it out there.

Giraldo Rosales: Fred Stain can do it in Champagne as well if there's a perception. We as commissioners don't think and I think you've done an excellent job. I think probably you need a little bit of more support from us as commissioners and think you're going to do fine. You're going to make a fine chair moving forward.

I would hate for you to step down at this juncture where we're trying to piece the commission back together and I look forward for your leadership moving forward. I would totally support that and I'm pretty sure that my commissioners will consider all of that as well.

Peter Folk: Well then maybe that's another item for the agenda to get a legal opinion from the two cities on the conflict of interest question.

Karen Walker: Put it to rest.

Peter Folk: So that it could be out there, officially.

There is a suggestion that we not do an appointment of commissioners at this meeting. I think that's a reasonable suggestion. We're at that point in the agenda. We're discussing it. We don't have to make a motion. Does anyone want to make a motion?

Giraldo Rosales: No need.

Peter Folk: Moving on to audience participation; always the most exciting part of these meetings. There is none so we're moving on to commissioner's comments. I think we've had a lot of comments but if you have anything else to say, speaker now.

Alright, our next meeting is, assuming we still exist, is January 21st, 2016, 3:30pm in the Urbana City Council Chambers. I will make a more strenuous effort to get the providers here and do the agenda items that we talked about.

Dale Cinder: I move we adjourn.

Giraldo Rosales: Second.

Peter Folk: Oh, wait, wait, wait.

Giraldo Rosales: It's done.

Peter Folk: It hasn't been voted on, it's a discussion. Who's taking the minutes for this because it's not supposed to be a city staff person moving forward?

Karen Walker: I thought that earlier, somebody said we'll volunteer to go ahead and do it for another meeting or two.

Dale Cinder: That was the last meeting.

Peter Folk: If it was the last meeting, yeah.

Karen Walker: No, I mean tonight.

Dale Cinder: I'm willing to go through the nearly two hours of video and summarize into a couple of paragraphs which I think is really all that will be required.

Peter Folk: Okay.

Dale Cinder: If you can forward me any notes you have, that would be helpful.

Peter Folk: I will if you could ask me for them if you need them that would be very helpful. All in favor of adjournment?

All: Aye.

Peter Folk: Opposed?

Giraldo Rosales: I wanted to thank one and all for coming as well. It was a good discussion.

Peter Folk: One of our better ones in recent ...

How did we do?



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