

CABLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE AGENDA
Wednesday, January 16, 2008 – 7 p.m.
Conference Room C – Troy City Hall

I. Call to Order 7:09 pm

II. Roll Call

Kent Voigt
Bryan Wehrung
Brian Wattles
Tom Belian
Lisa Martinico
Chi Song, Student Rep.
Nancy Chen, Student Rep.
Cindy Stewart, City Liaison

Absent: Alan Manzon, Penny Marinos

III. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting of October 18, 2007
Change attendance to reflect that Chi Song, student rep was in attendance.
Motion by Kent Voigt to approve the October 18, 2007 minutes, seconded by Lisa Martinico. Approved unanimously.

IV. Correspondence:

- A. Comcast – Comcast Local Dropped – Dec. 28, 2007
Dropped from its current channel line up position based on customer evaluations. Board members with this channel said it was nothing they'd miss.
- B. Comcast – Changing Hours at Royal Oak Service Center – Dec. 13, 2007
As of Jan. 7, 2008, Monday – Friday 9 am – 7 pm and Saturdays 9 am – 5 pm. Board's concerns visiting the service center very poor customer service, long lines, lack of staff.
- C. Comcast – Digital PEG Channels on the Basic Service Tier – Dec. 7, 2007
President of MI NATOA sent list of questions on behalf of NATOA to Comcast. Answers sent from Comcast. Some answers very vague. Digital boxes needed by Basic Service tier customers will be 1 free per

household. Michigan is the only state with the new legislation (PA 480). Is that why they started with us?

- D. Comcast – Changes and additions in the channel lineup – Dec. 6, 2007
Channel Additions: NHL Network, Discovery HD, TLC HD, Animal Planet HD, Sci-Fi HD, CNN HD
- E. Comcast – Scheduled price adjustment on video products – Dec. 6, 2007
Due to increased investments they are making in technology, programming and customer care, beginning Jan. 1, 2008, adjusting prices on video products.

Example:

Limited basic: \$13.50 - \$14.99 (11% increase)
Standard Basic: \$29.99 - \$31.50 (5%)
Preferred Basic: \$46.49 - \$49.49

Digital Packages:
Starter \$48.49 - \$51.48
Preferred: \$62.44 - \$66.44

No increases to high-speed Internet prices.

Board members who are Comcast customers do not think they are getting any of these notifications. They will check future bills.

Senior rates increasing 5 percent, 2.9 percent and 4.9 percent depending on the package.

- F. Comcast – Change in the channel lineup and pay-per-view pricing – Nov. 30
Effective Dec. 31, 2007, NOGGIN and the N Networks will separate into two 24 hour services. The N will replace NICKGAS (games and sports).
Video-On-Demand: Price for new releases increase from \$3.99 to \$4.99. Price for IFC in theaters Movie titles increase from \$5.99 to \$6.99.
- G. WOW – Notification of price adjustment – Nov. 26, 2007
Effective Jan. 1, 2008 basic service increases to \$48.75. Limited Basic will be \$15.99 a month.

- H. WOW – Notification of Programming Changes – Nov. 14, 2007
Effective January 4, 2008, adding Fox Business Channel to digital tier.
Also creating a new digital tier called Digital Variety Pack. Includes
tennis channel and Fox college sports.
 - I. Comcast – Comcast is resurrecting its late fees – Oct. 30, 2007
Administrative fee up from \$5 to \$7.
 - J. Comcast – Changes and additions in the channel lineup – Oct. 22,
2007
Channel Additions: History HD, TBS HD, USA Network HD
Leased access and C-SPAN 2 will be repositioned.
Increased changes: Technical visits \$19.95 (currently 0)
Other changes:
Reduced video installation
High-Speed Internet Installation and Digital Voice Installation
 - K. WOW – WOW! High-Speed Internet and Phone is offered at your
service for a competitive price
Bundle any two WOW! services for \$59.99 a month or all three for
\$89.99 a month. Prices guaranteed to 2009.
- V. Articles
- A. Cable Boxes on way out, Comcast Says – Detroit News – Jan. 7, 2007

This industry initiative, “tru2way,” could allow TVs and other devices to
receive interactive services. This could encourage the development of
new services and features that rely on two-way communication over
the cable network. Comcast will roll out the platform in all of its markets
by the end of 2008. The Panasonic Viera Plasma HDTV with “tru2way”
will go on sale this year. The time-frame gives cable leverage over the
competing standard proposed six year consumer electronics makers,
whose devices might not make it to retail until 2009.
 - B. The brains behind the perfect ACT score – Detroit News, Jan. 5, 2007

Great accomplishment achieved by Chi Song, Cable Rep. Only one in
Michigan and one of the 22 in the US to score perfect 36 on ACT. Well
rounded academically as well as other leadership skills, community
service and writing ability. CAC Members are very proud of Chi Song’s
accomplishments and commend him for his work.
 - C. Cable lineup switch cheats viewers, their communities – Oakland
Press, Jan. 4, 2008

When cable was in its infancy, there was honest-to-goodness competition to secure a franchise. Local officials demanded a lot and the benefits were bountiful. In a complete 180, the cable companies now have the locals over the barrel. Changes are shoved down our throats.

- D. Public access TV to be a tough find; Comcast taking it digital, into 900s – Detroit Free Press, Dec. 25, 2007

Hundreds of local access cable channels that broadcast municipal meetings, concerts, sports, parades and community events are moving to channels in the 900s. Unclear what programming will be shown on the lower channels, but Comcast said the move is driven by uniform desire for digital service. All 1.3 million Michigan Comcast subscribers will be affected. Viewership is expected to plummet by 50-70 percent with this change.

- E. Local Government Organizations Ask FCC to Stay Second Video Franchise Order – Nation's Cities Weekly, Dec. 24, 2007

Last week, national local government organizations representing municipal and county officials, including NLC, asking the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) not to implement its Second Video Franchise Order (Second Order) pending reconsideration and clarification of the order. Without the agency's action, the order will go fully into effect today. In documents filed with the FCC, the organizations assert that several aspects of the Second Order are unclear or were decided in error. In a 3-2 decision released last month, the FCC extended several aspects of an earlier video franchise order to incumbent cable operators. In the Second Order, the FCC concluded that the 5 percent cap on franchise fees established in its First Video Franchising Order applies to incumbents.

- F. Dedication nets teen a perfect ACT score – Oakland Press, Dec. 24, 2007

Chi Song's accomplishment achieved by only 1 out of 6000. His college choices are Harvard and Stanford.

- G. Channel change creates cable static – Observer & Eccentric, Dec. 20, 2007

Local public access producers and municipal cable channel representatives feels PEG channels are clearly being undermined. The fear is that at some point Comcast will say no one is watching the PEG channels and seek to stop providing access.

- H. Comcast, AT&T rivalry heats up – Detroit News, Dec 18, 2007

Companies bombard Metro Detroit consumers with ads touting deals on digital TV, high-speed Internet. Since May when AT&T launched U-Verse, its bundled service package, the regions two longest carriers have been ratcheting up their sales pitches. Over the next six months to a year, a telecommunications consultant predicts it will get nastier. Comcast, the nation's largest cable TV and second largest Internet provider, services over 1.3 million households in Michigan. AT&T has posed the biggest threat to Comcast.

- I. AT&T's U-Verse expands - Detroit News, Dec. 13, 2007
High-speed Internet and digital TV services will compete with Comcast for customers in Metro Detroit. AT&T won't disclose how many of the roughly 350,000 serviceable households are taking advantage of the new U-Verse service. U-Verse blends feature-loaded home phone, digital TV and high-speed Internet access services into one package delivered through standard home telephone jacks and is designed to take on Comcast's' similar bundles, which have been on the market much longer.

VI. New Business

- A. Council Resolution requesting Preservation of Existing Channel Locations for PEG Channels.

US District Court Eastern District of Michigan
Honorable Victoria Roberts – Opinion and order (Jan. 14, 2008)

- B. Election of Chair
Bryan, having served on the Cable Advisory Committee since July 1991, has decided to step down. Lisa thanked Bryan for his 18 years of service.

RESOLUTION #CAC-01-01

Motion by Brian Wattles, seconded by Lisa Martinico, that the cable Advisory Committee commends Bryan Wehrung for his 18 years of service to the City of Troy. Motion approved unanimously.

RESOLUTION #CAC-01-02

Motion by Lisa Martinico, seconded by Brian Wattles to recommend Kent Voigt as chairperson. Motion approved unanimously.

VII. Old Business

- A. Report on Web Publications from members

Sunspot activity might affect cell phones and cable in near future.

Use of technology is living green, with considerable savings. Online publications show excess of energy savings.

In technology fields, employees aged 18-31 are most difficult to manage. Seventy percent of problems within a company are due to unrealistic expectations by the younger employees. Ages 32-42 experience 17 percent of problems and ages 43-65 have 10 percent of problems.

VIII. Staff Report

- A. WTRY Cable Guide
- B. CAC Member Listing
- C. ICCA Meeting Notes – November 14, 2007.
- D. Next Meeting: Thursday, April 17, 2008.

IX. Adjournment

RESOLUTION CAC #01-03
Motion to adjourn at 9:15 pm by Tom Belian seconded by Bryan Wattles.
Meeting adjourned.

Bryan Wehrung, Chairman

Cindy Stewart, City Liaison