

CABLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES
Thursday, April 17, 2008 – 7 p.m.
Conference Room C – Troy City Hall

I. Call to Order – 7:04 pm

II. Roll Call

Present:

Penny Marinos

Kent Voigt

Brian Wattles

Lisa Martinico

Tom Belian

Cindy Stewart, City Liaison

Nancy Chin, Student

Chi Song, Student

Absent:

Alan Manson

III. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting of January 16, 2008
Under Adjournment – Bryan Wattles should be Brian.
Moved by Penny Marinos, seconded by Lisa Martinico with corrections

IV: Correspondence:

Comcast – Channel Changes – March 21, 2008

Brian Wattles comment – he has not received any recent correspondence about new channel line-up changes. Why don't they come to subscribers via insert on bill, message on bill or messages via cable? Cindy will send e-mail to Olivia Visperas. Kent does not receive notices via the TV from WOW.

Comcast – Channel Changes – February 28, 2008

WOW – Bundled Services Mailing – March 2008 - Do they offer tiered bandwidth? Yes and you can check speed. Comcast & WOW have different ways to measure. Kent read an article that Comcast is working to have rules to restrict bandwidth and what customers do with it.

WOW – Interruption of Services – March 26, 2008

Customers got e-mail and letter from WOW apologizing for interruption.

V. Articles

FCC Preparing Public for Mandated Transition to Digital TV – Daily Tribune
April 3, 2007

Comment - UK is spending 10 times more on publicity than the US. This is upsetting a lot of people. Brian Wattles has a lot of concerns with Comcast and will write to Olivia. Cindy has arranged for a speaker at the Senior Center to explain this to our senior citizens.

Local Broadcasters Launch New Digital Channels for 2009 –
www.broadcastingcable.com March 11, 2008

With 569 programming sources coming there is still “nothing on TV.”

VI. New Business

Blocking the BitTorrent protocol

Brought forward by Chi Song - This affects the younger generation.

File sharing – users share very large files (10 gigabytes) Comcast, Oct 07, started blocking the uploads, not downloads yet. First time a company has selectively block what users see. Students distribute music and TV productions. FCC is investigating Comcast (check BitTorrent.com) Comcast has negotiated a deal with BitTorrent. BitTorrent does affect bandwidth so that is a reason they want to control this. If their fear is copyright infringement, they will have many more holes to plug. There is a huge changing market. The consensus of the group should be to oppose this. Do we want to communicate this to Comcast?

FCC held hearing on Howard campus. Comcast hired people to fill seats so the public could not get in and speak to topic. Tom would like to know what WOW feels about this topic. What is their position?

Committee suggests sending a report to City Council on this topic. Cindy will prepare and get to council as a report on their next agenda. Comcast is a corporate giant and bottom line they are out to make a profit. Brian said we should put together a resolution dealing with topic of net neutral. Lisa said to remember our communities have no control over the Internet. Although the CAC and City has no control of community's use of the Internet, we feel the need to inform City Council. KV leery of a resolution, would rather send them an informational piece. CAC is here to advise City Council, make recommendations.

Any committee member wishing to e-mail Cindy info for a recommendation, please do so by 4/24/08. She will compile for a memo for City Council's next meeting.

VI. Old Business

Report on Web Publications from members

Statistic from the National Cable & Telecommunication Assoc.

- US TV households (9/2007) 112,275,000
- Basic cable subscribers (12/2007) 64,800,000
- Digital Cable customers 37,100,000
- Revenue from customers (2008) \$81, 910,000
- Top ten program networks
 1. Discover
 2. TNT
 3. ESPN
 4. CNN
 5. USA Network
 6. Lifetime
 7. Nickelodeon
 8. TBS
 9. Weather Channel
 10. Learning Channel

Tech Update – Consumer Electronic Trends for 2008

- Blu-Ray HD-DVD Disc
- Super Thin, Super Dark TV Sets Coming
- Home Networking
- New Services – Pro Women & Green
- iPhone & iPod Touch inspire
- Wireless World

Kent would like to see this committee monitor more reports like this from schools, businesses, and cable industry in order to keep the city informed on new technology.

Tom attended the National Association Broadcasters Conference saw new camera by JVC with microwave system and no need for cable trucks.

2007 – ABC, CBS, NBC 23.1 million viewers for nightly news (6:30pm)

2008 – down to 22 million – dropping each year by millions.

People can get news on the Internet and the 6:30 pm news doesn't fit with work schedules. Internet news available 24/7. Will the quality suffer due to the immediacy?

VII. Staff Report

Alan Manson sent an e-mail last week that he was moved out of Troy and will send in his resignation. He thanked the City for allowing him to be part of committee. The City is currently in the budget process. We have been taping all the wonderful Library concerts and Museum lectures.

WTRY Cable Guide
CAC Member Listing
ICCA Meeting Notes – January 16, 2008

Next Meeting: Thursday, July 17, 2008

- VIII. Adjournment -
Motion by Lisa Martinico, Seconded by Penny Marinos to adjourn at 8:30 pm. Approved.

Kent Voigt, Chairman

Cindy Stewart, City Liaison