



Hudson Cable Television Advisory Committee

Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: March 17, 2016

Meeting Location: HCTV Studios, Hudson High School.

In attendance: Michael Coburn, John Funyak, A.J. Stokes and Nick Zaklanovich.
Ex Officio: Kerry Paluscsak and Barbara VanBlarcum.

Not in attendance: Don Drenski, Jeff Russell, Thor Wasbotten.
Ex. Officio: Dr. Dan Williams – Council Liaison.

Chair Nick Zaklanovich called the meeting to order at 6:38 P.M. Notes were taken by Nick Zaklanovich.

I. Greeting of members and guests

Nick Zaklanovich greeted all in attendance. No visitors were in attendance.

II. Approval of Minutes

Kerry Paluscsak noted a typographical error and suggested that one word be changed in the meeting minutes from the January 21, 2016. With those changes noted, the rest of the meeting minutes were approved as submitted. Nick will e-mail the edited minutes to Kerry so that they can be posted on the City web site.

III. Public Access Update – Barbara VanBlarcum

Barbara VanBlarcum was going to have to leave the meeting early, so we heard her report first. Barb reported that Public access activity has been brisk since the January meeting.

Chris Dolciatto recorded four versions of the new revival of The Ultimate Game Challenge this past Saturday. The first program will not be on the station until September, 2016.

The Christian Unity prayer service & speaker were recorded. A Hudson High School hockey match against Solon High School was provided by a partnership with Solon Educational TV.

Kabir Bhatia recorded a new show called “Kabir Time” that featured interviews with people from the Hudson Library & Historical Society and an interview about horticulture with Curt VanBlarcum.

Brian Suntken has been providing a steady stream of Music from the Buckeye State programs that have been appearing regularly on the station. Barb recorded a new "In Chat" program with Miss Ren of the King Guesthouse speaking to Hillary Sheeter, a local water color artist.

III. Public Access Update – Barbara VanBlarcum, continued

A new Oral History interview program was recorded with Gerald Reeves, a long time Superintendent of the Hudson City Schools who was interviewed by Rob Swedenborg.

Barb mentioned that Nick had created several productions in the past few months, including a talk by Mr. Tom Vince about the famous alleged ax murder Lizzie Borden.

Staff member Meg Andrus recorded the Random Acts of Kindness kickoff event and Barb completed the editing on the Hudson Heritage Association presentation on the Western Reserve Academy Farm.

Nick mentioned that the Cleveland Rising program from the Library will be completed soon and another Library presentation on the Fifty Greatest Places in America, which includes the historic Hudson Green, was recorded and editing is in the initial stages.

IV. Station Manager's Report, Kerry Paluscsak

Station Manager Kerry Paluscsak reported that HCTV has ordered all of the capital equipment purchases to update the station to HD playback capability. New servers and routers are required for the upgrade. The hope is to get the equipment installed and operating before the fall sports season begins.

The new digital recorder system (3Play) has been received and is in the process of being installed. The new unit will provide replay capabilities as well as the ability to record all four studio cameras for later editing when the crew count is too low to allow for a live to tape production.

The Hudson Community Foundation has submitted a donation of \$1,200 to the station and The Learned Owl Book Shop is making a \$400 annual contribution for operations.

The plan is to buy a couple of new Public Access camera packages, including cameras, tripods and wireless microphone systems. This new equipment will replace some of the aging Public Access equipment which will be available for staff productions in addition to Public Access.

The station is partnering with the Jewish Community Foundation of Akron to begin producing their program, Forum 360. The organization has just recently lost their previous production facility for the show. The show will now be produced weekly in the HCTV studio in exchange for a donation. The finished program would require a minimum of staff involvement and the finished program would be available to be aired on HCTV.

Michael Coburn asked if the JCF was a local organization. Kerry responded that the group is based out of Akron, but would be a conforming charity under 501(c)3 to qualify as being able to use the HCTV studio for their program production.

Kerry reported that the transmission equipment between Time-Warner headend and the HCTV studio is over eighteen years old and is starting to fail, impacting the quality of the cable signal. Since the current equipment is old FM technology, it is no longer supported, so new transmission equipment must be purchased to replace the old transmission gear.

Time-Warner is not interested in replacing the old transmission equipment, so HCTV must purchase the new transmission gear. It is hoped that a price break can be realized on that gear by purchasing it as part of the City's current Velocity broadband initiative.

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IV. Station Manager's Report, Kerry Paluscsak, continued

Nick mentioned that he had contacted Time-Warner Cable concerning the signal distortion on HCTV Channel 16. The Time-Warner representative that he spoke to stated that she would follow-up with the Bridge Team of TWC to try to find a solution to the problem. Nick said that if he did not hear back from TWC in the next week, he would call them back and request an update.

Kerry added that he was expecting a call from a TWC engineer before the end of the week, but had not yet heard from him. Kerry said that he would follow up on the promised information update from the engineer if it remains unfulfilled.

On a good note, Time-Warner may be partnering with HCTV on sports coverage, once HCTV completes the conversion over to full HD programming.

V. CAP ACT Update

No new information relating to the CAP Act was available. Kerry doubted that anything would happen until after the November election has taken place. Kerry has distributed e-mails from the American Community Television organization with CAP Act information to the committee members.

VI. Time Warner / Charter Comm. update

Nick said that he had just found a story on the Internet that the chairman of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) was ready to submit a paper in support of the Time-Warner / Charter Communications merger. Kerry said that the paper was due out before the weekend.

Kerry said that the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) must also approve the deal, but is expected to do so soon. Once the FTC and FCC approve the merger, it will probably move forward quickly. Kerry added that due to the fact that Charter does not now have a presence in the Ohio area, he suspects that same operations people that have worked for TWC will continue to be involved with the merged operations in our area.

VII. Community Organization Liaison

Nick reported that he had received no response from the e-mail blast that was sent out in January to 22 organizations in town, inviting them to meet with the committee members about using HCTV to promote their organizations. The lack of response was disappointing. Barb suggested that we try again in the fall, when community organizations seem to be in full operation.

Nick reported that he had contacted City Communications Manager Jodi Roberts concerning the press release article that Mr. Jeff Russell had created some time ago for publication in the Hudson Hub-Times. Following that reminder message, the article appeared in the newspaper on Sunday, March 13, positioned directly adjacent to the weekly HCTV program schedule.

Nick reported that he had contacted two people that were involved with the Pedal Hudson initiative from the most recent Leadership Hudson class. A positive response was received from City Planner Mr. Greg Hannan, who was one of the people contacted concerning Pedal Hudson. Mr. Hannan said that the Pedal Hudson group was very interested in promoting themselves via HCTV and they would be in contact shortly about producing a program.

VIII. Friends of Hudson Community Television

Nick reported that a brief organizational meeting for the 501(c)3 organization "Friends of Hudson Community Television" was held on February 3, 2016 at the Hudson Library. Officers for the organization were nominated. Mr. Frank Youngwerth was nominated as President of the group; Mr. Gary Dixon was selected and accepted the office of Vice President; Barb VanBlarcum was nominated and accepted the position of Secretary and Ms. Barbara Bos was nominated for Treasurer.

Mr. Youngwerth and Ms. Bos were not in attendance at the meeting, so Nick said that will have further contact with them about becoming officers of the organization.

Prior to submitting the 501(c)3 application to the Internal Revenue Service, Nick discovered that one essential form was yet to be filled out. He said that he will complete that form in the next few weeks, after which, the final submittal to the IRS can be made.

The State of Ohio is also in need of more information about the 501(c)3, after the IRS application has been submitted.

IX. Previous Meeting Follow Up

The name change of the station to Hudson Community Television is planned to take place in July or August. Kerry had previously circulated a proposed new logo, which includes the tag line at the bottom that reads, "On Line, On Cable, On Demand". Nick asked if the City needs to be involved with the name change. Kerry said that no official approval will be needed.

Kerry mentioned that a new cloud-based bulletin board application is being tested and will be brought on line in step with the station name change. The new bulletin board application is an HD service that will allow for greater capabilities and animation in the bulletin board postings.

Nick mentioned that he had not read the FCC policy change e-mail that Kerry had forwarded to the members. The informational message concerned a policy change with the FCC that could impact the support of Public Access stations. It may be a good idea for the committee to draft some comments regarding the policy change.

Kerry also mentioned that there has been litigation brought forth with the Public Access host, Leightronix, that concerned copyright infringement from one of the clients of the company. As a result, the City has been contacted to render an opinion on the hold harmless request that Leightronix is now asking for to protect themselves from copyright infringement problems.

PegCentral, our current Public Access host is renaming its service to Bibit. The service will still be a part of Leightronix, but the brand name change will result in HCTV to have to change the address that is currently used to access on line programming, since PegCentral will become Bibit.

We discussed Thor Wasbotten's idea of producing a discussion program with the high school students. Kerry said that he may discuss the idea with Principal Brian Wilch at the upcoming graduation ceremony, with possible implementation in the next school year (2016-2017).

High School graduation will be held on May 18, 2016 this year. Full coverage at E.J. Thomas Hall will be handled by HCTV staff and volunteers as usual. The graduation event is usually the highest requested event for DVD / Blue Ray sales.

X. New Access Program Ideas

Nick mentioned that he had talked to staff member Phil Leiter on the subject of creating a program on restoring historic house windows. We will look into this idea further.

Michael suggested that the High School Girls Rugby games, since they are recorded anyway for the coaches, could be produced as a program for HCTV. Nick said that he would be willing to help producing a Rugby production. Michael said that he would get with Nick to set a date when they could record a rugby match at Memorial Stadium.

XI. Once Around

Michael said that during his Council interview the idea of uploading public access productions from the citizens may be a good idea. Michael asked if it would be possible to perform an upload of video programs directly into HCTV.

Kerry said that there are several ways to do this type of program gathering. The easiest way would be to have an upload Drop Box that would allow contributors to upload videos directly to the station via the Internet. That uploaded content would then be checked for proper content and any potential copyright problems. If none are found, the program would be available for airing, assuming that producer would agree to a legal statement of responsibility.

Kerry said that a FTP site that can hold videos would also be another way to transfer productions, usually of short duration from the citizens. Kerry said that he would contact Station Engineer Dan Gerbracht and follow-up with him on the technical aspects of performing uploads via the Internet.

XII. Next Meeting Date

The next scheduled HCTV Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 19, 2016 at 6:30 PM in the HCTV studio at Hudson High School.

XIII. Adjournment

With no further business indicated, the meeting was adjourned at 7:39 P.M.