



Hudson Community Television Advisory Committee

Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: May 18, 2020, 5:30 PM

Meeting Location: A virtual meeting that was held via Zoom and hosted by the City of Hudson

Members in attendance: Michael Beam, Kabir Bhatia, Aimee Dunphy, Ginny Frazer, Patrick Miller, Jeff Russell and Nick Zaklanovich.

Ex Officio: Dan Gerbracht and Barbara VanBlarcum.

I. Call to Order

Committee Chair Nick Zaklanovich called the meeting to order at 5:31 P.M. Nick Zaklanovich took notes in a trade with Kabir Bhatia, who in exchange will perform the note duties for a meeting later in 2020.

II. Greeting of members and guests

Nick greeted all in attendance. One guest was in attendance at the meeting, Mr. Thomas Sheridan, Assistant City Manager – Professional Services for the City of Hudson. Mr. Sheridan was introduced to all of the meeting attendees.

III. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

The draft minutes for the February 17, 2019 committee meeting, created by Jeff Russell, were approved as written. The approved minutes will be posted to the City web site.

IV. Station Management Reports – Barbara VanBlarcum & Dan Gerbracht

Barbara VanBlarcum:

Public Access Update:

Since the March and April committee meetings were both cancelled, the Public Access update will include information from the February meeting up to the current date.

- NZAM Productions produced a program on the opening of the new Ada Cooper Miller Natatorium.
- The Hudson Heritage Association provided two programs from their presentations. One related to the Hobo Society in the Western Reserve. The second HHA program featured a talk by Roger Bliss, who spoke about civic assets and workable urban design.
- Yeji around Town produced a new program about the Ohio Organic Store on North Main Street.

IV. Station Management Reports – Barbara VanBlarcum, continued

- Western Reserve Academy produced a program called “A Happy Lunar New Year, 2020”.
- Committee members Patrick Miller and Jeff Russell produced a documentary-style program about the Hudson Job Search organization.
- The Hudson High School Girl’s Lacrosse team provided coverage of a recent contest against Avon.
- The Hudson Presbyterian Church has joined the list of local churches providing coverage of their services for broadcast on HCTV.

Prior to the temporary shutdown of the HCTV studio due to the COVID19 virus, the station produced the following programming:

- A talk by John McNicken at the High School concerning impact investing leading up to the hydroponic gardens that are starting up at the school green house.
- Three Winter Music Concerts were recorded, the Orchestra, Choir and the Band.
- The Friends of Hudson Parks annual meeting was recorded.
- Two talks at the Library were recorded, one by author Allison Stanger and another by Tom Shachtman.
- The Rotary Club of Hudson’s weekly meetings are now being held on Zoom and are airing on HCTV.
- Forum 360 is now recording their programs on Zoom and providing them in that fashion.
- The City Club of Cleveland is also recording their meetings on Zoom and providing them to the station.

Dan Gerbracht:

- Dan reported that the studio has been closed since the state shut down order, and will only reopen upon direction from both the City administration and the School administration. During the shutdown, station staff has been working from home.
- Since February, new equipment was acquired including new laptops for both Barb & Meg Andrus. A new iPad was also obtained for Barb’s use. New portable lights that had been on order were received, along with some external editing hard drives.
- A Teradek Live transmission system was purchased by the First Congregational Church for use in transmitting their Sunday services for live airing on HCTV. An additional system transmitter was also purchased.
- HCTV is now airing the meetings of City Council live on Channel 1022, following the purchase of some equipment that allows for live broadcast.
- The graduation ceremonies for Hudson High Scholl on June 10 will be aired live on Channel 1021.
- A Canvas graphic design software package was obtained to enhance the in-house productions.
- A list of video productions created by the station, in no particular order: Safely re-open in Hudson; Barlow Community Center lake dam project; City employee recognition and appreciation video; an anthem for small businesses; the changes to the walking trails at Hudson Springs Park; stay at home safely for Easter; Chief Varnes thanking the citizens for their donations to the Safety Forces; a Citizen’s Safety Anthem text presentation; Good Day in Hudson for May and June; documentation on the emptiness in Downtown due to the pandemic; document the progress on the construction of the new Skate Park; document the road paving projects.
- Nick and Michael Beam both asked for more details on the new Teradek system. Dan said that the system transmits the video signal from the church, via the Internet, to a receiver located at the station. Michael asked if the system could be used by other organizations. Dan said that the system was purchased by the church and the initial operation would be a “trust building opportunity”, so no additional system users will be permitted at this time.

Barb added that the Congregational Church has been recording their service since before HCTV even existed. The new equipment will allow for the church to move to the live schedule time of 10:30 AM each Sunday.

At this point Kabir joined the meeting from his garage.

V. Friends of HCTV Update – All

Nick reported that the annual \$1,000 scholarship from the Friends of HCTV group was awarded to Anne Sexton, who is a Hudson High School senior who has volunteered at the station for all four years of her high school career. One other senior student had applied for the scholarship. Plans are being made for the actual presentation of the award to Anne sometime soon. Ginny Frazer said that she has supplies to create some signs that will be used during the actual scholarship presentation.

Ginny said that the Friends of HCTV president, Gary Dixon, Barbara VanBlarcum and other members are working with the Hudson High School Guidance Department to produce the Class of 2020 Scholarship Awards Program, which was canceled because of the coronavirus. It will be on HCTV and on Vimeo.

VI. FCC Docket Order # 05-311 – Nick Zaklanovich

Nick and Barb both “attended” the recent on-line meeting of the Alliance for Community Media (ACM) organization, which supports the efforts of public access operations nationwide. ACM reported that the appeal of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) # 05-311 order that could impact franchise payments to the HCTV station was denied. The denial of the appeal was not a surprise.

Following that move, the FCC issued a third reading concerning their order, which refined some of the points that were less than clear in the original order. Nick read a portion of the FCC release that basically said that the cable companies must negotiate any changes in franchise payments with the impacted cities, before any franchise payment changes are implemented.

Additionally, the ACM has joined with many cities around the country, led by the City of Portland, OR, in a law suit against the order in the Sixth District Federal Court sitting in Cincinnati. The suit argues that the FCC ruling will cause “irreparable damage” to the Public Access operations across the country. Amicus briefs (Friends of the Court) that generate additional comments related to the case are expected in the next week and a hearing before the court in the matter should take place in the fall of 2020.

There is also an effort in the U.S. Congress to help fight the impact of the FCC ruling. The Protecting Community Television Act would legislatively reverse the FCC order. The bill has thirty-five co-sponsors in the House and seventeen co-sponsors in the Senate, but none of the co-sponsors are from the Ohio congressional contingent. Nick said that any committee members who wish to do so could contact the Ohio representatives and ask for their assistance in supporting and enacting the bill. Jeff asked that information concerning the Congressional effort be forwarded to the committee members. Nick said that he would do so before the end of the week.

VII. New Access Program Ideas, Previous Meeting Follow Up & Once Around – All

Barb reported that Heidi Schweigoefer, host of the North of 60 program, has reached out several times concerning once again gaining access to the station, in order to record new programs. Since no schedule for the reopening is currently available, Heidi asked if it would be possible to record programs outside of the studio.

Nick asked if any franchise payments have been received from Spectrum since the last meeting. Dan responded that a fourth quarter 2019 payment was received and was slightly lower than the normal payment. Barb added that a new reduction fee appeared, without explanation, to the most recent payment. She said that other ACM member stations have also seen this charge impacting their franchise payments, and that the

ACM is looking into, and will be appealing that reduction charge.

VII. New Access Program Ideas, Previous Meeting Follow Up & Once Around – continued

Michael asked if the most recent payment was different than the 2018 4th quarter receipt. Dan responded that the payment was not significantly different from the previous 4th quarter payments. Barb said that she had contacted Spectrum and they provided no explanation for the payment reduction. She has also contacted the City Solicitor to advise him of the new payment reduction.

Nick said that Tom Vince is looking to restart recording on his Presidents of Ohio series soon, with either Hayes or McKinley as the most likely subjects. The Vince presentation for the St. Mary's LAM group that was cancelled from April has graphics ready, but no reschedule date for the presentation has been set.

Nick also mentioned that he, Jeff & Patrick have been in contact with the Hudson Heritage Association about producing a promotional video for that organization. It is hopeful that a meeting will be scheduled in the next week to discuss the production, which will build on the success of Jeff and Patrick's recent program about Hudson Job Search.

Jeff asked why the Job Search video is not available via the on-demand Vimeo service of HCTV. Barb said that the current policy is to only have HCTV produced programming in the on-demand service. Storage limits on the on-demand service would be overloaded if all of the public access (P.A.) programming was also made available. Dan added that the city cannot incur the legal responsibility for P.A. content.

Michael said that the current Vimeo policy makes sense and that the P.A. users are free to post their content on You Tube or other posting sites. He also asked if a link could be provided to the producer's upload sites, allowing their programming to be viewed, without being hosted by the city operation. Dan said that the P.A. rules allow any type of production from any producer. Linking all of that material to the city web site could be problematic.

Barb said that she sees great value in much of the historic P.A. program that has been produced over the years, and would like to have some way for the citizens to access that programming. Michael suggested that perhaps the Friends of HCTV could create a method to provide access.

Ginny asked about the status of the Six District Compact video production class that had been proposed for next school year. Dan said that the class is definitely on hold for the 2020-2021 school year.

Our guest, Mr. Sheridan said that he wants to help the station, and Dan and Barb, in any way he can to keep the station doing the good work that it does. He said that he will follow up with the City on items that may need further attention, including having the Friends of HCTV host P.A. programming.

VIII. Adjournment

The next committee meeting date is tentatively scheduled for Monday, June 15, 2020 at 6:30 PM and will be held via Zoom, unless permitted to do otherwise by the City and/or State. With no further business indicated, the meeting adjourned at 6:18 PM.