



## Hudson Community Television Advisory Committee

### *Committee Meeting Minutes*

Meeting Date: December 10, 2020, 6:30 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, Barbara VanBlarcum and Skylar Sutton – Council Liaison.

#### **I. Call to Order**

Committee Chair Nick Zaklanovich called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. Kabir Bhatia took notes.

#### **II. Greeting of members and guests**

Nick greeted all in attendance. No guests were in attendance at the meeting.

#### **III. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

The draft minutes for the November 12, 2019 committee meeting, created by Michael Beam, were approved as written, with one minor change. The approved minutes will be posted to the City web site.

#### **IV. Station Management Reports – Barbara VanBlarcum & Dan Gerbracht**

**Dan Gerbracht:** New cameras are now running thanks to collaboration with city and school staff; the Hudson Music Association also contributed funds. The cameras were successfully used before schools went remote for two basketball games, plus orchestra and choir performances. Most staff has been trained as well. The Dante Audio network is running, which is a digital system running to the gym, auditorium, and library. There is also fiber cable that's been installed for future use.

The station's Vimeo account has also been updated for live streaming, and will roll out in early 2021 after training. It works well with new robotic cameras. Those cameras allow many events to be done with minimal staff, which is important for social distancing.

One of the station's portable cameras was broken and will be replaced in the next few weeks.

Mr. Gerbracht intends to send out a budget recap before the January meeting, and he plans to talk about the budget in-detail at that time.

Mr. Beam asked if the robotic cameras would be used for a choir concert scheduled for the evening of the meeting. Mr. Gerbracht replied that all school events are canceled for the time being, due to coronavirus. He added that the cameras will be ready when events resume, and can even be controlled virtually from a staff-member's house.

Mr. Miller asked for more detail on how the cameras work. Mr. Gerbracht explained there is a keyboard with joystick and other settings, such as zoom and color controls. There are also presets which can be pre-programmed.

Mr. Zaklanovich asked how these would be used in the gym, for basketball games.

Mr. Gerbracht replied that they are able to cover the games without staff, though they recently used a wide shot with score bar at the bottom.

**Barbara Van Blarcum:** On the access side, a new program will air soon, recorded via Zoom, on job searching during the pandemic.

Hudson Community First hosted a career panel, with alumni from Hudson schools and WRA. Van Blarcum edited it together using video sent in by each participant. Another panel is possibly slated for January, concentrating more on WRA alumni.

"Retirepreneur" host Donna Kastner is moving to the Cincinnati area and recently recorded her final program at HCTV's studio. Ms. Van Blarcum recommended she contact the Rotary groups and access channels near her new home.

"Forum 360" recorded in-studio recently, but is now remote. Rotary provided candidate forums and other speakers recently.

"North of 60" recorded in-studio but has moved next week's scheduled taping to January, due to COVID concerns.

First Congregational Church produced a live interfaith program at Thanksgiving, and is now producing an Advent program for Laurel Lake. They will also air live programs on Christmas Eve, during the day.

"Yeji Around Town" interviewed the owner of the Grey Colt about the store's history, events, and merchandise.

Community of St. John continues weekly services. Rev. Suntken is also producing other short programs, under 15 minutes, with inspirational stories.

From HCTV, recent productions include Hudson Schools football, soccer, field hockey, fall music concerts, and the new HMS opening ceremony. A program of winter concerts will be compiled from socially distanced performances at the high school.

The monthly Hudson Heritage meeting featured Tom Vince discussing the history of the city's railroads. This month's "Good Day Hudson" is a 90-minute show with a flashback to an interview with Ada Cooper Miller. There are also new interviews with Mike Rickman, and a segment on Mr. Vince being recognized by the state legislature for 50 years of volunteer service.

HCTV also continues acquiring programs from the Hudson Library, Akron Roundtable and City Club of Cleveland.

There also many programs airing from the archives, including a tribute to Ms. Cooper Miller. Mr. Zaklanovich noted that the show featured appearances from Ms. Van Blarcum and Mr. Youngwerth.

#### **V. "Friends of HCTV" update – All**

Ms. Frazer met last month with the Friends. HCTV had asked the League For Service for \$5,000, and received \$500. The funds will be used for equipment which people can sign-out to use with their camera phones. Mr. Gerbracht had provided a list of such equipment, noting that many camera phones produce excellent quality video.

Mr. Gerbracht said he has not heard back from the VP of Grants for the League, and Ms. Frazer suggested he contact Barbara Bos or Bev Dorson to follow-up.

Ms. Frazer asked if there were sponsors for the recent HHS basketball games, but Mr. Gerbracht said there had not been time to get any. However, the season is currently suspended due to coronavirus. Ms. Frazer noted that this is a difficult environment in which to get sponsors.

Mr. Zaklanovich said the camera phone accessories have been delivered to his home and he will bring to them to the station soon.

Mr. Russell noted the interest from sponsors and the audience for HHS football, and feels that's a good sign of the popularity of live sports once winter sports resume.

Ms. Frazer said that the Friends of HCTV scholarship no longer requires working in-studio, but applicants will now have to make a video. There will also be a need for an essay based on one of four prompts. She says the scholarship is still being offered so this year's class does not feel left out.

Mr. Zaklanovich thanked Ms. Frazer for her work putting the scholarship together.

#### **VI. FCC Docket # 05-311 update – Nick Zaklanovich**

Mr. Zaklanovich watched the ACM meeting in early December, and said there was not much happening there. The only news is that FCC Chairman Pai is stepping down. There is speculation that sitting member Jessica Rosenworcel will be nominated as the interim chair. Mr. Zaklanovich says she is a friend of community media. He also noted that the Biden administration has set up an FCC transition team which includes pro-community TV folks.

No news on the lawsuit in the 4th District, which is supposed to go to trial this month.

The "Protecting Community TV Act" (HR 5659) must be reintroduced in the new congress, and Mr. Zaklanovich feels that Ohio's delegation will need to be reminded of the importance of PEG programming, particularly during COVID.

## **VII. New Access program ideas, previous meeting follow-up & once around – All**

Ms. Van Blarcum noted that a group of HHS students has been selected by the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society as Star Students. They plan to organize creative ways to raise funds, and will produce a "Hudson's Got Talent" call-in show, airing in January.

The day after the meeting, an access producer was scheduled to borrow the Teradek to live-stream a memorial service from Silver Springs Cemetery in Stow. It's an annual candlelight service, and will air on HCTV in January.

Mr. Gerbracht discussed a possible Friends of HCTV survey for the public. Jody Roberts with the City advised that it should come from city staff, not directly from the Friends, if HCTV plans to use the results. There has been an issue between City Council and the EAC about a similar survey, and Mr. Gerbracht does not want to have the same issue. This is where things stand currently, and Mr. Gerbracht feels a survey can be done but might take some time.

Mr. Zaklanovich noted that the survey had been previously discussed, and is delayed until 2021.

Mr. Russell has not heard anything about whether his position has been posted and interviews started, so he was unsure if this was his last meeting or not. He noticed the residency requirement for board members has been changed, and feels that former board member Thor Wasbotten would be a good candidate for the seat.

Mr. Gerbracht stated that he believed interviews are next week, with an appointment in January.

Councilman Skylar Sutton said he believes only the Tree Commission and HCTV interviews remain to be completed.

Mr. Gerbracht noted that the two candidates are Shawn Svacha and Emily Lopick.

Mr. Sutton said the general consensus about the residency requirement is that it does not apply to HCTV due to a loophole in the language; it is not explicitly stated.

Mr. Zaklanovich added that the HCTV charter changed a few years ago to conform to other boards, and it seems strange that the residency requirement was not addressed. He asked if this could be cleared up, since the bottom of the application says "you must be a 2-year resident."

Councilman Sutton said he will ask the city's legal counsel for an official opinion on this.

Mr. Zaklanovich stated that Mr. Wassbotten has apparently been in contact with the City and expressed that he is not available for the board at this time. Mr. Zaklanovich asked if anyone knows the two candidates.

Ms. Dunphy stated she knows Ms. Lopick, who used to live in their shared neighborhood.

Mr. Gerbracht says both are involved in media: Ms. Lopick was a reporter at a PBS station in Bowling Green and now works at First Congregational Church. Mr. Svacha works in media for a local bank. Mr. Gerbracht feels that both are great candidates.

Mr. Zaklanovich thanked Mr. Russell for his service and says he will be missed. Ms. Van Blarcum encouraged Mr. Russell to still attend meetings as a resident until he moves.

Councilman Sutton thanked Mr. Russell for his service. He added, with regard to the survey discussed earlier, that the EAC issue involves asking the public about transitioning to a single refuse hauler. He said there is a dispute between EAC and its Council liaison on the phrasing of questions. Councilman Sutton feels this may be why the city wants surveys to come from them: so Council can weigh-in on the questions before they go out.

Mr. Beam said he is open to meeting with HCTV staff if they're interested in discussing an HCTV app, which has been mentioned at past meetings. He said he would be meeting soon with instructors for the students who could work on this during spring semester, or it would also be possible to discuss it for fall semester.

Mr. Miller thanked Mr. Russell for getting him involved in HCTV.

Mr. Bhatia wished Mr. Russell "Happy Trails!"

Ms. Dunphy thanked Mr. Russell, noting that she will miss his humor at the meetings.

Mr. Zaklanovich asked about a Council resolution from last month to upgrade HCTV's Granicus system.

Mr. Gerbracht said he had made the resolution. The school district uses HCTV's account, so the City has to approve any upgrade even though the school pays for it -- they reimburse the City. It's used for school board meetings. So, this is a clerical move.

Mr. Zaklanovich said he is currently editing a Kinsman program. He closed by saying that although the board cannot go for a drink after its final meeting of the year, as it usually does, he salutes everyone and says "Nostrovial!"

### **VIII. Adjournment**

The next committee meeting date is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, January 14, 2021 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 7:15 PM.