



## Hudson Community Television Advisory Committee

### *Committee Meeting Minutes*

Meeting Date: January 14, 2021, 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, Emily Lopick, Patrick Miller and Nick Zaklanovich.

**Ex Officio:** Dan Gerbracht, Barbara VanBlarcum, Nicole Kowalski – Council Liaison and Thomas Sheridan – Assistant City Manager, Professional Services.

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

Committee Chair Nick Zaklanovich called the meeting to order at 6:32 P.M. Nick also took notes.

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

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

#### **III. Introduction of new member Emily Lopick**

The committee welcomed newly appointed member Emily Lopick, who replaces Jeff Russell on the committee and will complete the unexpired term ending on January 24, 2024. Welcome aboard, Emily. We also welcomed a new council liaison, Nicole Kowalski, who was just recently sworn in as an At-Large Council representative and replaces Skylar Sutton as the liaison to the committee.

#### **IV Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

The draft minutes for the December 10, 2019 committee meeting, created by Kabir Bhatia, were approved as written. The approved minutes will be posted to the City web site.

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

### **Barbara VanBlarcum:**

#### **The following Public Access programming was available in the past month:**

Hudson Job Search: Job Search in the Time of COVID 19; First Congregational Church: LIVE Christmas Eve Day services, LIVE at 10:30 A.M. Sundays; Community of Saint John: Sunday services & Christmas Eve / Hudson Presbyterian, Gloria Dei Lutheran; Retirepreneur: Last episode. Donna is moving out of Hudson; North of 60: Heidi Schweighoefer postponed to Jan. due to COVID; Yeji Around Town: Yeji Kim visited Grey Colt; Hudson Heritage Association: January program begins tonight: “Living History, Dying Art: The History of Glendale Cemetery”; Phun Phacts at the Pharmacy: Dr. Grider discusses the virus & drug recalls; Forum 360: 3 virtual and one in HCTV studio; Rotary Club of Hudson: 4 episodes, virtual; Leukemia & Lymphoma Society HHS: postponed until February.

#### **Acquired programs:**

MetroParks: 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary year: serenity scenes, winter tree i.d., yoga; Hudson Library: author talks; Akron Roundtable: Mental health discussion; WRA Dance performance: Across the Divide Act 2 performed at locations on campus; HHS Drama Department: virtual Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland; Cub Scouts: Pinewood Derby LIVE coverage being discussed; City Club of Cleveland has continued with virtual presentations.

#### **HCTV produced programming:**

Good Day in Hudson December – a 90 min program featuring Mike Rickman, Ada Cooper Miller & Bob Entenman, Rep. Weinstein & Tom Vince, Irving Berlin; Good Day in Hudson: January: Jane Howington, Deb Hoover; HHS Orchestras recorded with new remote cameras; HHS Choirs, Vocal Impact, Wind Ensemble; Clocktower Countdown: New Year’s Eve; Diversity Inclusion Task Force: Book Read & Dialogue: White Fragility, Parts 1-3; Upcoming: Hudson Community First – Career Panel #2.

### **Dan Gerbracht:**

- All of the backup battery units at the station were replaced. The replacements are required every five years.
- Dan is working on converting the audio portion of the operation to digital. The equipment racks are already converted to DANTE and proposals are out for the conversion of the control room.
- The studio video monitor and monitor cart have been replaced. The new system will allow for Zoom access in the studio.
- The Friends of HCTV provided equipment that can be used by Public Access producers to record programs using their iPhones. Production Assistant Meg Andrus is coming up with a program to train the staff & users on the new equipment.
- Meg is also recording another Explorers hockey game in the next week. This will be the second hockey contest to be presented on HCTV.
- Dan announced that Meg Andrus has now been assigned full time to HCTV. She had previously split her time between HCTV & Velocity, but is now solely dedicated to HCTV operations. Congratulations, Meg!
- Dan said that Community TV operations in Chardon and Community Focus in Macedonia have contacted him concerning ideas on how to succeed in COVID times as HCTV has done so successfully.
- Most of the staff has been trained in the use of the new robotic cameras. HCTV will be providing coverage of a Hudson Explorers basketball game with Nordonia on Friday. The robotic cameras will be used to cover the game and Community Focus in Macedonia will be supplied with the game’s program feed.

- Vimeo live stream studio is now being used to provide studio control via the staff laptop computers. The new system works very well with the new robotic cameras.

## **V. Station Management Reports – Barbara VanBlarcum & Dan Gerbracht, continued**

### **Dan Gerbracht, continued:**

- Dan has done research into providing Facebook Live capabilities to some Public Access users. He is looking at equipment that can be checked out to provide live access resources to users.
- The station produced a Hudson Headlines edition on the sidewalks and trails master plan for the City. The new edition is scheduled for release in the next week.
- Plans are in place to record the State of the City presentation that will happen in the next few weeks.
- Dan supplied viewership information to the committee members. Information from the City web site indicates that “football” was the number one search item on the City web site, indicating the importance of Explorers football coverage to the community. Dan added that viewers from 49 states and 70 countries accessed HCTV coverage of Explorers football this past season.
- Dan mentioned that he does have a proposal with the City staff to install robotic cameras in the studio, in place of the manned cameras that are currently in use. No action is expected on that request in the near future.
- Michael Beam asked if the Vimeo live stream studio would be a competing product of the Vibit streaming system currently in use by the station. Dan replied that the Vimeo live system is a production application that allows for the production of video content that would then be streamed by the Vibit streaming system.
- Michael also asked if Dan has looked at the ATEM Mini Pro video switcher unit as a possible solution for in-studio switching. Dan replied that he is familiar with the ATEM unit and is looking at it as a possible device for the station. Nick added that he has an ATEM Mini that he used in his work for Stan Hywet Hall and offered his unit for testing at the station. Nick indicated the only deficiency in the ATEM unit was the lack of a multi-view and a preview screen in the camera interface.

## **VI. “Friends of HCTV” update – All**

Ginny Frazer reported that she spoke to Mr. Gary Dixon, President of the Friends of HCTV, and he inquired about soliciting sponsorship for any upcoming sports event coverage that the station may provide. Dan said that he was not aware of the schedule for upcoming events, so committing to sponsorship at this time is not possible. Ginny said that if it becomes possible to schedule events any time soon, there are sponsors available to help support the sports coverage.

Ginny said that the questions for the Friends of HCTV annual scholarship are posted on the organization’s web site. Dan added that the video production class for Hudson High School students will start on Tuesday, January 19. No other details on the class have been provided as of yet.

Nick reported that as treasurer of the Friends of HCTV, he has processed the payment to the City of Hudson for costs associated with the non-home football game coverage. He also reported that he had registered the non-profit with both the IRS and the State of Ohio for 2020, as required by law.

## **VII. Alliance for Community Media update – Nick Zaklanovich**

Nick viewed the monthly Alliance for Community Media virtual meeting on January 7.

Current FCC Chairman Ajit Pai attended his last commission meeting on January 13, 2021, and is stepping down on January 20. There is speculation that sitting commission member Jessica Rosenworcel will be named as the interim chair, but it is not known when a permanent chair will be named. At the current time, the commission is composed of two members of each party, with a nomination to fill the open commission seat is expected in the next few months.

The incoming Biden administration has set up an FCC transition team that will help in the transition to the new administration, but no major action on the transition is expected until spring 2021.

No further news was provided on the legality of the commission's 636 order which is being litigated in the United States Court of Appeals for the 4th District. That issue was previously scheduled to go to trial in January, but it is now scheduled for trial sometime in the spring of 2021.

The Protecting Community TV Act, which had been brought forward in the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress must be reintroduced in the new session. Some of the original sponsors of the bill in both the House and Senate are no longer in Congress.

Dan reported that the Hometown Media Awards program, hosted by ACM, began accepting entry submissions today. Dan will be submitting the Safety Town video series that the station produced for consideration for an award. Dan said that any access producer can submit an entry for consideration, by using that station's ACM membership.

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

Barb reported that she and Dan had met with two Kent State staff members, including Dr. Beam, concerning having the students of Kent State University's interdisciplinary programs group help in the development of a mobile application related to HCTV. Michael added that if the committee members have any ideas for functions that should be included in the mobile application, please pass on those ideas to him.

Ginny suggested that text messages about important events in the community would be an important aspect of any future HCTV mobile application. Dates were set to meet with the KSU application developers to go over the proposed project. Ginny added that continuing maintenance support for a mobile application is highly desirable. Michael said that maintenance will be a part of the overall project.

Dan added that Hudson High School students may also be involved in the mobile application development efforts. Emily said that the cooperative effort to develop a mobile application for HCTV could be a great promotional story, once the project is completed.

Nick asked if the new robotic cameras could be a promotional opportunity. Dan said that perhaps that could happen, after the cameras were in use for a longer period of time.

Patrick Miller asked about the previous idea of creating a retrospective program on the Explorer's 2020 football season. Nick said that he would comment on that issue during his update. Barb added that she has scheduled airing the 2020 football games in the next few weeks, giving the community another opportunity to view the very successful football season.

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

Kabir said that he had been contacted by a local business owner who inquired with him about the possibility of producing short video programs to promote businesses in town. Mrs. Kowalski said that a similar idea had been discussed by City Council as a means to promote local businesses during the current pandemic. Dan said that a similar series of programs were produced a few years ago, and that a graphics package had been developed for that program series. Dan said that perhaps the graphics package could be used in the startup of a new series effort. Nick said that he would be available to provide volunteer help on this production effort.

Mr. Sheridan added that he was very happy with the hard work that the station staff has been providing over the past year. He said that the station is operating as a “well-oiled machine” and the staff efforts have helped greatly to enhance the city’s service to the community during the pandemic. Mr. Sheridan said that any grant opportunities that become available to help the station will be pursued.

Nick asked if there was any update on the franchise payment situation. Dan responded that the most recent payment for the third quarter of 2020 was right around the amount of the most recent payments.

Nick said that he has taken a short respite from editing, but does has the Kinsman Clinton Line Railroad hosted by Mr. Thomas L. Vince and the Friends of Hudson Parks promotional program recorded, but yet to be edited. He also said that he had sent an e-mail to Hudson Football Coach Jeff Gough concerning producing a program about the 2020 Explorer football season, but has not heard back from the Coach yet about proceeding.

Nick asked the members to please advise him of their meeting attendance status prior to each committee meeting.

## **IX. Adjournment**

The next committee meeting date is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, February 11, 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 7:31 PM.