

# MINUTES

Oshkosh Cable Television Advisory Commission

## REGULAR MEETING

May 7, 2008

The regular meeting of the Oshkosh Cable Television Advisory Commission was held at 4:00 p.m. on May 7, 2008 in Room 404 of City Hall.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Witte and roll call was taken. Present were members Mr. Rumlow, Mrs. Lowe, Mr. Williams and Mr. Kerkhof. Also present was Jon Urben, Director of Media Services and Bill Harke, Time Warner Public Relations Manager.

Chairman Witte then asked for consideration of the minutes from the February 6, 2008, meeting. It was moved by Mrs. Lowe, seconded by Mr. Rumlow, that the minutes be approved as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

There were no Communications from cable subscribers. Chairman Witte then asked for the Report of the Franchisee. Mr. Harke noted Time Warner was adding 8-13 new HD channels onto their system over the next few months. He also noted Time Warner was moving into the statewide franchise process. Mr. Witte asked if Time Warner had come any closer to adding the Big 10 network to the lineup. Mr. Harke reported they were still in negotiations with the network.

Chairman Witte then asked for the Report of OCMS. Mr. Urben noted his report would focus on the awards received by OCMS producers, partners and staff in the 2008 WAPC (Wisconsin Association of PEG Channels) Video Festival. He noted he was excited to announce OCMS garnished 17 programming awards including 6 Awards of Merit, 7 Awards of Achievement and 4 Awards of Excellence. In addition, Mr. Urben noted OCMS presented Sgt. Steve Sagmeister and the Oshkosh Police Department with the 2008 OCMS' Significant Community Producer Award for the outstanding work being done with their "Beyond the Badge" program. He completed his report by thanking all the OCMS producers, staff, volunteers, interns and the Friends of OCM Board for all their hard work, efforts and support in making these award winning programs.

Under Unfinished Business Chairman Witte asked for discussion on the agenda item entitled "Future role of the Oshkosh Cable Television Advisory Commission." Mr. Urben presented the Commission with some background on this issue, noting this was discussed at the February meeting. He noted that with the state legislation eliminating local cable franchises many communities are not seeing the need for cable commissions with no real authority or charge. Mr. Urben noted he had contacted WAPC members on this issue and noted that Waukesha, Wausau, West Allis, Madison, Stevens Point and West Bend have all disbanded their cable commissions. He noted that while technically the City was still in a franchise agreement with Time Warner, it is anticipated this agreement will end within the next several months once they apply for the state franchise. He also noted that this was an inevitable action and his intent on this matter was to be respectful of commission member's time and

efforts for serving on a commission, in addition to not misleading citizens that the commission had any real authority to address complaints, enforce franchise obligations or other matters which will soon be under the coordination of the State of Wisconsin. Mr. Urben also noted that should any of the commission members still wish to volunteer their service to the support of PEG programming they could do so by serving on the Friends of OCM (Oshkosh Community Media) non-profit board. In addition, Mr. Urben noted that should the Commission be dissolved many seats are available on City of Oshkosh boards and commissions if members wish to continue to volunteer their time and efforts to civic duty.

Discussion was then held on the timeframes of this process. Mr. Urben noted if the Commission wished to move forward on this matter it would again be placed on the next meeting agenda. He noted should the Commission want to dissolve, a recommendation from the Commission to repeal ordinance 2-39 (establishment of the Cable Television Advisory Commission) would then be forwarded as a resolution to the Common Council. If the Council approved, the Commission would be dissolved. Mr. Kerkhof inquired if that perhaps this issue could wait until Time Warner filed for the state cable franchise. It was agreed that since Time Warner did not know when they would be filing for the state franchise process the Commission would table this matter until the August meeting.

There being no New Business, Chairman Witte then noted the next Commission meeting would be Wednesday, August 6, 2008 at 4 p.m. Upon motion by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Kerkhof, the Commission adjourned at 4:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jon G. Urben*

Jon G. Urben  
Media Services Director  
City of Oshkosh

cc: Mr. John Fitzpatrick  
Mr. Bill Harkey