

OWOSSO CABLE ACCESS ADVISORY COMMISSION

JANUARY 11, 2010

5:05 P.M.

PRESIDING OFFICER: CHAIRPERSON JAMES GUTTING

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: CHAIRPERSON JAMES GUTTING

PRESENT: Commissioners W. Shaffer Fox, Christopher Hardwick, and Eddie Urban, Vice Chairperson Michael Tillotson and Chairperson James Gutting.

ABSENT: Commissioner Jack Johnson.

SET TIME LIMIT AND RE-AFFIRM RULES OF CONDUCT

Motion by Vice Chairperson Tillotson to set a time limit of 60 minutes and re-affirm the Rules of Conduct.

Motion supported by Commissioner Urban and concurred in by unanimous vote.

APPROVE AGENDA

Motion by Commissioner Hardwick to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion supported by Vice Chairperson Tillotson and concurred in by unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DECEMBER 14, 2009

Motion by Commissioner Fox to approve the minutes of the meeting of December 14, 2009 as presented with a note to include Commissioner Fox as a member present for the meeting.

Motion supported by Commissioner Hardwick and concurred in by unanimous vote.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Councilperson Gary Martenis thanked the Commission for their commitment to the community. He also thanked Vice Chairperson Tillotson for taping the meetings so they can be broadcast on the public access channel. He said that he had watched the December cable meeting when it was broadcast and was upset at hearing comments inappropriate for a meeting. He said he came tonight to refresh the Commission on their mission to provide public access cable television to the City. He asked that everyone be civil with one another. He also asked that the Commission present some ideas for the cable access channels to Council soon.

City Liaison Amy K. Kohagen explained the cable equipment purchase would be addressed during the next City Council meeting.

Rebecca Tillotson said she enjoys watching the public access channel. She questioned whether it was legal for KoK to put their logo over someone else's work. Chairperson Gutting noted that while he felt it appropriate that KoK be able to note they are running the program but the question should be looked at further.

Commissioner Hardwick noted that the clip Mrs. Tillotson was speaking about was posted on YouTube by the originator of the program thus releasing any copyright restrictions.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

OCTS RELEASE FORMS UPDATE

It was noted that KoK had submitted release forms for all the programs it sponsors for playback.

The Commission agreed that plenty of time had been given to OCTS sponsors and two deadlines had already passed. Consequences for not submitting a release form were discussed.

Motion by Commissioner Fox to set a new 30-day deadline for receipt of release forms from OCTS programmers, further City Liaison Kohagen will send a letter of reminder to all OCTS sponsors. Programs without release forms after the 30-day deadline will not be played until such time as a release form is received.

Motion supported by Vice Chairperson Tillotson and concurred in by unanimous vote.

COPYRIGHT RULES

It was noted that the Commission did not receive copies of the memo for this item in error. Copies were requested and the Commission moved on to the next item business.

SCHEDULE DEVELOPMENT

There was discussion about the cumbersome nature of the current schedule allotting three days to both OCTS and KoK and one day to the City. On occasion programs are cut off when input switches from one organization to the next. Chairperson Gutting noted that part of what people are seeing is due to the way the channel was initially developed. He went on to say that we are further limited by the level of equipment we have in the community. He said he hoped that the purchase of new equipment would allow the channel to be better utilized and to increase the offering of different programs. In the mean time he hoped a schedule could be developed to incorporate the programming of all three entities to spread out the different programs throughout the week.

Commissioner Hardwick said there is more equal access with the current schedule than people give credit for. He went on to say that in the spirit of equal access we need to remember that everyone that submits a program should have equal right to playback. Church programs should not be turned away because it is felt there are too many church programs, each viewpoint deserves to be heard.

Commissioner Fox insisted the programming on the channel support the City of Owosso. He also encouraged playback of such materials be performed multiple times for maximum exposure to viewers.

There was also a suggestion to move playback of government related programs to channel 96 to leave maximum room for other programming on channel 95. Chairperson Gutting noted his desire to see channel 95 brought to its potential before expanding programming to channel 96.

There was significant discussion about changing DVD's everyday to give the impression of a wider range of programming and editing programs to fit time slots.

Motion by Commissioner Urban to extend the meeting to 6:30 p.m.

Motion supported by Vice Chairperson Tillotson and concurred in by unanimous vote.

There was further discussion regarding how to split up time among the three broadcast entities and having OCTS take on all broadcasting responsibilities.

Motion by Vice Chairperson Tillotson to have the City time increased by one day and have KoK and OCTS work on an integrated schedule varying playback times for all three broadcast organizations for presentation at the next meeting.

Motion supported by Commissioner Fox and concurred in by unanimous vote.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Mayor Frederick indicated he was optimistic with the progress made today. He said he agreed the City needs to have the head end to ensure consistent programming and that the purchase of new equipment is important as the channels perform a valuable service to residents. He thanked KoK and OCTS for all their efforts over the years. He said his vision for our channels is to eventually put all government programming on channel 96. He encouraged the Commission to remember this situation is only temporary, there will be bumps in the road but he is looking forward to the future.

Councilperson Martenis complemented the Commission on working together tonight. He also said that he hopes the City can eventually purchase cameras and recording equipment for the Council Chambers so all meetings held in that room can be recorded.

Robert Churchill reminded the Commission that anytime you want or need a block of time in which to run a longer program that block of time must be carved out in advance.

Chairperson Gutting commented on the resignation of Commissioner Perry saying it was regretful.

Commissioner Urban said it was upsetting that Commissioner Perry resigned and though he knows why he left he is sorry the Commission lost him.

Mayor Frederick noted that he does not intend to appoint another person to replace former Commissioner Perry at this time. He hoped the current Commission members would find a certain level of comfort with each other first.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

Amy K. Kohagen, City Clerk