

COLUMBUS CABLE COMMISSION MEETING
COLUMBUS CITY HALL

August 14, 2018, 6:00 p.m. Council Chambers, City Hall

Vice-President Traxler called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Members present: Andy Traxler, Brian Dell, Lisa Wolf, Chet Bembenek and Michael Thom.

Absent: Peter Kaland (excused).

Also in attendance: Patrick Vander Sanden, Jesse Wilson and JT Cestkowski.

It was reported that the City Clerk's office, as required by appropriate Wisconsin Statutes, had given proper public notice of the meeting.

Motion by Wolf, second by Dell to approve minutes of July 11. Motion carried.

Motion by Bembenek, second by Dell to approve the agenda.

No citizens were present to make comment.

OLD BUSINESS

- 1. Adding Internet Access to the Pavilion:** Bembenek reported that he is working with Charter. The process has been frustrating, but he hopes to have the situation cleaned up by the next meeting.
- 2. ADA Compliance of Channel 980 and 981:** City Administrator Vander Sanden received a questionnaire which he filled out with help from Wilson. He is currently waiting to hear more. Traxler asked if there was a timetable. Vander Sanden was unsure.
- 3. Consider Cablecasting Commission Meetings:** No problems with broadcasts were reported. Senior Citizens Advisory Council was cablecast earlier in the month for the first time. Cestkowski said the Tourism Commission wanted its next meeting cablecast. The Cable Commission asked that Hillside Cemetery Association is contacted again.
- 4. Policy Review:** Cestkowski presented the Commission with a fourth draft policy for their review and critique.

Commissioners reviewed the policy. Thom pointed out that the policy did not mention the 980 News program even though the policy did point out other specific programs like live meetings and the announcement center. Bembenek said that adding the 980 News program could cause complications if the program changed or stopped being produced. Traxler identified policies that could apply to 980 News without calling it out by name. Traxler suggested adding "Cable Commission programming" to list of channel usages.

Commissioners offered several other changes to specific word choice designed to clarify meaning and intention. The equipment review was discussed at length to associate it with a month of the year for budgeting reasons.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **980 News Programming & Process:** The Commission considered how to approve draft edits of completed videos, or if they needed to give final approval at all. The debate centered on whether the Commission was simply reviewing videos and offering suggestions, or if it was approving them for release.

Bembenek felt Cable policy did not establish clear criteria for approving videos. Thom and Traxler said the prohibited programming policy could be used to measure if a video was suitable for release. Bembenek said he did not think the policy alone was an adequate ruler for measuring acceptability.

Cestkowski and Wilson asked what would be an appropriate amount of time for the commission to consider draft edits. Traxler suggested the Friday before the first Monday of the month would be acceptable.

Cestkowski and Wilson presented a list of ideas for future 980 News topics to the Commission for their approval. The Commission, after a number of minor edits, felt the list offered Wilson and Cestkowski a decent amount of creative freedom. Emergency approvals could go through the City Administrator.

Motion by Thom, second by Traxler, to approve the presented list with the following emendations:

- “Downtown Beautification Taskforce” be tabled.
- “Columbus History with Alice Schmidt,” “Udey Dam” and “City Employee/Elected Official Spotlight” be added.
- “Downtown Columbus” and “Antique Mall” be listed with the other “Business Spotlight” topics.

Motion carried.

2. **Consider 2019 Budget:** Vander Sanden presented the Commission with a draft budget for their consideration and questions.

Traxler suggested commissioners take the document home for due diligence. He also said those new to city budgeting reach out to him and Thom. Thom asked several questions clarifying line item definitions.

The Commission decided to bring the issue back at the next meeting.

3. **Staff Reports & Updates:** Wilson reported Columbus Community Hospital wanted copies of “What I Got Cooking” to host on its website.

Traxler felt there should be a user agreement and that the video be properly branded as belonging to the Commission or channel 980. Wilson said he had begun placing a 980 News logo in the corner of videos for that reason.

Thom was concerned about the precedent set for regularly handing out copies of Commission videos.

Vander Sanden will contact Attorney Johnson, and Wilson will reach out to the Hospital for more information. The item will be added to the next agenda.

- 4. Cable Programming, Issues & Plans:** Wilson addressed an issue where a microphone had been left on during a recess of a live meeting. Thom and Traxler voiced concerns about that accident occurring during a closed session of a council meeting.

Traxler said he had been contacted by someone who felt comments on the Facebook Live streams of public meetings were not adding anything of value. Commissioners felt the comments were not productive.

Bembenek pointed out that the school district would need to have a separate conversation about this issue if the Commission decided to remove commenting as they used the same Facebook page (Columbus Wisconsin Cable) to stream their meetings.

- 5. Discussion of Removing Commenting from Live Streams:** Motion by Thom, second by Bembenek, to remove commenting from all future Facebook Live streams until a policy can be established.

Next scheduled meeting – September 5th, 6:00 p.m. at City Hall.

Adjournment: Motion by Thom, second by Traxler to adjourn at 8:44 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

JT Cestkowski, Secretary