

# Notes

## Missoula Civic Television Advisory Commission

**January 15, 2013**

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm  
Mayor's Conference Room  
City Hall

**Commission Members in Attendance:** Jen Sauer, John Rettenmayer, Ginny Merriam, and Ed Childers

**Commission Members Absent:** Ellen Cherry, Cynthia Wolken, Link Starbureiy, John Firehammer, Lesli Brassfield, and Jean Curtiss

**Others in Attendance:** Kay Rabil (MCAT Liaison), Joel Baird (MCAT)

1. **Introductions** – None.
2. Review and approve the notes of December 18, 2012 – Not reviewed, no quorum present.
3. **Public Comment** - None
4. **Old/Continuing Business**
  - a. Review current programming schedule that has been recorded/is being recorded and identify events for MCAT to record/televis

Joel Baird gave the following report:

- MCAT did an interview with Mountain Line
- A streetcar report was coming up.
- The total number of programming, except for December, was 1,194 hours
- Recently Melissa Gordon was interviewed for Project Homeless Connect and the Poverello Center.
- Interviews for music concerts at the university were coming up
- Martin Luther King day lectures were coming up
- Interview on upcoming class on how to present science, focusing on funding for the university and focus on the community

John Rettenmayer made the following suggestion:

- City Club could be a program

Ginny Merriam made the following suggestions:

- Climate Action Plan interview
- Parks and Recreation could discuss the new gym

- Police Chief Muir could discuss the cell phone ban
- RUX Project Trail – Rattlesnake Crossing could be a program
- Legislative priorities, but it would not come from the City’s lobbyist

Jen Sauer made the following suggestions:

- The Economic Outlook Seminar is coming up on February 1<sup>st</sup> and there would be a discussion on Healthcare and that could be a show
- Celebrate academics on February 13<sup>th</sup> for Charter Day at the University could be a show

Ed Childers made the following suggestion:

- A public service presentation on how to cross the street as a pedestrian

## 5. **New Business** - None

### a. MCAT Contract Renewal

Discussion about the contract was as follows:

- The current contract has many grammatical errors; dollar amounts for insurance may have to be changed. The contract amount went from 1 million to 2 million.
- What editorial control did the city want of the civic channel? Did the city want the prime time on channel 11 monthly from 6-10 pm for example?
- MCAT needed to ensure that the city could not be held responsible for any editorial comments, or for the public to assume that those comments were endorsed by the city.
- Did the city have an interest to make sure each meeting had a time slot?

Ginny Merriam stated that nothing currently dictated what MCAT played and maybe that belonged in the contract. Ed Childers wants enough time for the City’s local government shows and does not care how the rest of the time is divided. He also does not want the government’s time confined to a specific slot.

Joel Baird explained that if the City reserved specific time slots and let MCAT fill the rest the City could not be held responsible for views expressed outside of its own time slot. Currently the contract states that MCAT has editorial control and the City cannot be implicated because of what MCAT chose to play; however now most of the programming is local City government programming. Kay Rabil suggested some type of disclaimer for the City as well.

Ginny liked the idea of a disclaimer or blurb broadcasted periodically or shown in front of each program and on the MCAT website. Ed suggested a block of time for government programming with a disclaimer on everything else. Joel thought a disclaimer would work. Ginny added that a block of time was too restrictive and she wanted to think about it some more. Joel reminded everyone that the contract

expired in June. She suggested talking about the annual report and the contract in February. Joel stated that the report was almost done.

b. Discuss board absences

The Commission discussed commission absences. The bylaws state that if you have 3 absences, then the commission can find a replacement for you. Ed suggested sending a certified notice requesting a response in so much time then your position can be filled. He also wondered why the commission had two council members on it. Joel stated that it would be in the ordinance that created the board. John Rettenmayer asked what would happen if they sent a letter and received no response. Ginny said that language can be added to the letter to show up or resign. Ed offered to discuss the matter with the other Council member on the board. Ginny offered to speak to Jean Curtiss/Ann Hughes to work something out with the Commissioner's Office. John Rettenmayer said he would draft a letter and email it to Ginny for review. He also asked if the commission wanted to start meeting quarterly instead of monthly. Ginny felt that the programming and the commission would flounder if they did not meet monthly, but all members needed to attend the meetings.

**6. MCAT Board Comment**

**7. Set Agenda for Next Meeting**

- Elect Chair and Vice Chair
- Discuss the annual report
- Contract Renewal
- Attendance problems

**Date of next meeting:  
February 19, 2013  
Mayor's Conference Room**