

Minutes
Missoula Civic Television Advisory Commission
August 18, 2014
2:00 pm – 3:00 pm
Mayor's Conference Room

Commission Members in Attendance: John Rettenmayer (Chair), Hatton Littman, Ed Childers, Annelise Hedahl, Jen Sauer

Commission Members Absent: John Firehammer, Ginny Merriam, Jean Curtiss

Others in Attendance: Joel Baird, Heidi Bakula

1. Introductions
2. The minutes of June 16, 2014 will be reviewed at a later date
3. Public Comment – None
4. Old/Continuing Business
 - a. Review current programming schedule that has been recorded/is being recorded
*Identify events for MCAT to record/televise

Current Programming – Wake Up Missoula

- Phil Gardner discussed the park bond
- Doug Harby and Marilyn Marler discussed sidewalks
- Laval Means discussed the growth policy
- Travis Welsh discussed bike theft and an IRS scam
- Monte Sipe discussed the 3rd Street reconstruction
- Leslie Schwab discussed the Western Montana Oral History program that would be at the Western Montana Fair
- Caitlin Copple discussed broadband issues

New Programming

- Missoula College groundbreaking
- State of the University

5. New Business

Charter Communications – Analog to all digital programming - Discussion

- Marty Rehbein and Dale Bickell recently met with a representative from Charter Communications about the change from analog to all digital programming.
- After August 26, 2014 analog will no longer be offered in our area and basic cable will not work without a special box from Charter. The box will be free the first year only.
- The switch to digital will make connections much faster.
- 1800 households will be affected if they don't get a box.
- MCPS (each school), the University of Montana, the City of Missoula, Missoula County, etc., will only receive one box each from Charter.
- In order to get more boxes they will have to be purchased. Each additional box is \$7 per month, but if 12 are needed in one location that would mean \$84 per month.
- Charter is the only local provider and the city's contract requires that they only give a 60 day notice of any change in service.

- Charter commented that the switch to digital will counteract theft of services.
- Brian Grogan is the city's attorney for the contract issue with Charter and the contract supports Charter's request.
- The city negotiates the franchise agreement for MCAT and the school district, but the current franchise agreement will not expire for another four years.
- Hospitals, Missoula County, and the entire school district are in the same boat. A thought was to negotiate for a non-profit rate.
- As far as MCAT access, citizens can use rabbit ears once switched from analog to digital.
- MCAT is moving from channels 7 and 11 to channels 189 and 190 and they will no longer be near the public interest stations such as KPAX and KECI, etc.
- Jen Sauer commented that Charter is in all the dorm rooms and she was not sure how it would affect the rest of the university.
- Joel Baird did say that MCAT was discussing possibly going in with all larger subscribers or organizations – hospitals, schools, city, county, etc., to negotiate as one large entity.

6. MCAT Board Comment

7. Set agenda for next meeting

Held Items

Respectfully Submitted by,
Heidi J. Bakula, Executive Assistant

Date of next meeting: October 20, 2014, Mayor's Conference Room