

## Minutes

### Missoula Civic Television Advisory Commission September 15, 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, Jen Crane

1. Introductions
2. The minutes of June 16, 2014 and August 18, 2014 will be reviewed at a later date
3. Public Comment –
4. Old/Continuing Business
  - Review current programming schedule that has been recorded/is being recorded
    - \*Identify events for MCAT to record/televisе.

#### Current Programming – Wake Up Missoula

- Phil Gardner discussed
- Doug Harby and Marilyn Marler discussed
- Laval Means discussed
- Travis Welsh discussed
- Monte Sipe discussed
- Leslie Schwab discussed
- Caitlin Cople discussed broadband

#### New Programming

- Missoula College groundbreaking
- State of 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.

6. MCAT Board Comment

7. Set agenda for next meeting

**Held Items**

Respectfully Submitted by,  
Jen Crane, Legal Assistant

- 8.
9. ☒ Charter commented that the switch to digital will counteract theft of services.
10. ☒ Brian Grogan is the city's attorney for the contract issue with Charter and the contract supports Charter's request.
11. ☒ The city negotiates the franchise agreement for MCAT and the school district, but the current franchise agreement will not expire for another four years.
12. ☒ Hospitals, Missoula County, and the entire school district are in the same boat. A thought was to negotiate for a non-profit rate.
13. ☒ As far as MCAT access, citizens can use rabbit ears once switched from analog to digital.
14. ☒ 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 KECL, etc.
15. ☒ 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.
16. ☒ 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.

•