

Minutes
Missoula Civic Television Advisory Commission
Zoom Meeting
July 20, 2020

Commission Members in Attendance: Chris Badgley, Hatton Littman, Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson, Amber Sherrill, Allison Franz, Toffer Lehnherr, Sandra Vasecka and Jen Sauer

Commission Members Absent: Ginny Merriam

Others in Attendance: Nevin Graves, Joel Baird (MCAT) and Heidi Bakula (Mayor's Office)

1. The minutes of January 27, 2020 were approved as submitted.
2. Public Comment

Introductions for new board members were made. Allison Franz, from Missoula County, took over for Anne Hughes and Nevin Graves will be taking over for Megan Robson.

3. Commission Member Comment

Joel Baird gave an update on MCAT's move to the new Missoula Public Library. In May, MCAT was supposed to move, but the move date kept getting pushed out. Now MCAT is scheduled to move in two weeks. Joel single handedly packed up everything and painted their old location. They are still using one room for all their equipment at the old location and Lori Hudak is overseeing the equipment where their one and only cable currently exists. Joel was told that the cost of moving the cable to the new location for MCAT would be \$30,000. Right now they are using modulators that they rent from the cable company for \$700 per month. Joel has been able to save quite a bit of money to put towards the \$30,000, but he had a ways to go.

Hatton Littman said that the school district just went through the same process for new cable and the price they were quoting Joel was not competitive. She said she would help Joel to see if the price could be significantly reduced. She thought maybe boring of the new cable made it expensive.

Joel reports that there has been a major increase in video on different platforms that he has been downloading and running on the public channel. He said if anyone had ideas for filming to let him know.

Hatton asked Joel to look at the numbers to see if MCAT followers have increased since COVID 19 began in mid-March.

4. Old/Continuing Business

- a. Review current programming schedule that has been recorded/is being recorded

Old

(This item was not discussed)

New/Proposed Ideas

- Interview Bradley Seaman, the county's new elections administrator
- Pursue ways to get voter information out to everyone
- Missoula County Public School Board Meetings
- Commissioner's Community Councils/Town Halls

- b. Hours Allotment for MCPS – Hatton Littman

Joel Baird reported that this item is no longer applicable because Missoula County signed a franchise agreement with Charter designating a certain amount of hours to the county. Since Missoula County Public Schools is part of Missoula County, the school district does not have to worry about trying to obtain extra hours anymore. Missoula County still needs to enter into an agreement with MCAT to decide the hours allotment for the county, but now the hours are guaranteed. Joel is also considering a rider in the agreement between Missoula County and MCAT specifically for the school district's needs.

Hatton Littman thought that the school district was becoming its own governing board like the City of Missoula or Missoula County. Maybe they should negotiate for hours too.

5. New Business

- a. Report on the Hours – Joel Baird

Joel asked if the commission could discuss the hours at the August meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Heidi Bakula
Executive Assistant