

**City of Lincoln**  
**Telecommunications/Cable Television Advisory Board**  
**Meeting Minutes – February 27, 2025**

**Members Present:** Jim Johnson, Steve Kiene, Tim Klein, Laurie Thomas Lee, Helen Meeks, Bennie Shobe

**Members Absent:** Demet Batur, Ed Hoffman, Jamie Wenz

**City Staff:** Tim Sieh, Chris Triebsch, Beau Wolfe

**ALLO:** Andrew Vinton

**Charter/Spectrum:** Dayton Murty

**Call to Order/Introduction**

Chair Steve Kiene called the meeting to order at 4:18 pm. Kiene made note of the copy of the Open Meetings Act at the back of the room. Board members and guests introduced themselves.

**Review and Approval of Agenda**

Meeks moved approval of the agenda; Shobe seconded; motion carried 6-0.

**Minutes**

Draft minutes of the January 23, 2025, meeting had been distributed prior to the meeting. Shobe moved approval; Klein seconded; motion carried 6-0.

**Old Business**

*Subcommittee for Wi-Fi Locations*

Tim Sieh from the City Attorney's office led the discussion. Sieh believes that the board needs to define the goal of the subcommittee before setting it up. He reminded us that due to current law, the City is not able to be a provider of wi-fi; we could explore the topic if the board so chooses.

Meeks said that there are certain areas where there might not be wi-fi. She doesn't think we know where they are. She says that just about anywhere you go there is already access. Meeks volunteers at Bryan East, and they have Wi-Fi access at that location. City libraries also provide free Wi-Fi. Meeks thinks we need to identify whether we have a need, and if so where is that need.

Shobe said we need to determine whether this a solution looking for a problem, or whether there is a problem.

Kiene said that the board needs to determine what we want, who we want to benefit, and if we do find that there is a need then what are the alternatives. If we find a hole that free Wi-Fi would solve, then do we try to partner with providers to solve it. He said that discussion should happen before a committee is formed. Kiene said he would be willing to put that in writing for board consideration.

Klein said that educational access is important. LPS has partnerships with the cable providers; he would like to make sure that the educational access is front and center.

## **New Business**

### *Election of Officers*

We held our annual election of officers. Kiene reminded us that we had not been able to have a lot of meetings in the past year and he thought it might be worthwhile to keep the current slate in place for 2025:

Steve Kiene, President

Jamie Wenz, Vice-President

Jim Johnson, Secretary

Shobe agreed and moved that we keep those officers in place for this year. Kiene seconded; motion passed 6-0.

### *Discuss Purpose of Board/Goals*

Sieh led a discussion on the purpose and goals of the board.

Shobe said that the biggest challenge for the board is to keep track of technology as it shifts. He said we need to review our cable rules. Sieh agreed; he said that the current rules were last updated in 2005. 20 years later, things have changed.

Shobe said that we might consider Public Access Channel funding. He thought it was worth reviewing how much we want to contribute to that. He said that this group should drive that conversation.

Meeks said that with reference to the board purpose, we should review the bylaws and the rules, and come to the next meeting with ideas for updates.

Tribsch will make the current bylaws and rules available to board members before the next meeting.

## **Allo Report**

Vinton reported for Allo. He said that Allo is continuing to pursue rural Lancaster fiber builds. Some are completed, some still in progress.

The BEAD (Broadband Equity and Access Deployment) grant program is in full swing. Allo feels that this program is very useful.

Allo is doing a router upgrade, progressing to 2.3 GB symmetrical upload/download. It's a moving timeline but they're looking forward to completing it. Allo Mobile is being installed in various markets.

There are issues with big companies on the broadcasting side. Allo continues to evaluate streaming services. They have not dropped any channels since our last meeting.

Vinton said that community Wi-Fi is an interesting idea; Allo wants to be involved. Possible locations mentioned included the Haymarket, the Mill in the Telegraph District, Innovation Park, ZooFest, and LPS athletic fields.

Kiene asked if there are plans to serve rural areas outside of the small towns? Vinton said yes. He said that there are financial considerations; that is the purpose of BEAD.

Meeks said that it's good to know that Allo has the capability to do the "popup" Wi-Fi events. She wondered what criteria they use, and how does it get paid for, and whether the service terminates at the end of the event. Vinton said that the only criteria is that they listen to requests and decide whether they can do it. He said that Allo is generally a sponsor of those events. There is cost to doing popups but they try to do it as a benefit if

possible. He said that for some events, such as ZooFest, the service terminates; however for areas such as the Cube and the Telegraph District the equipment stays.

#### **Charter/Spectrum Report**

Murty reported for Charter/Spectrum. They are sponsoring an employee volunteer day on March 24, with the Center for People in Need. (The event will be in the morning; Dayton will provide us with details upon request.)

#### **City Reports**

Tribsch and Wolfe reported for the City.

#### *Board Member Renewals and Vacancies*

Tribsch said there are three board members whose terms are up for renewal: Helen Meeks, Laurie Thomas Lee, and Ed Hoffman. All three have said they are willing to continue for another term. There are also two vacancies on the board; if we have recommendations get those names to Tribsch.

#### *Streaming Viewership Report*

Wolfe presented data about streaming viewership from 12/1/2024 to 2/26/2025. He also showed a City-produced video about the University Place Subarea Plan, and another about Employment with the City of Lincoln.

#### **Public Comments**

None

#### **Next Meeting**

Next meeting is scheduled for April 24, 2025 at 4:00 p.m.. Other future meeting dates are scheduled for July 24 and October 23.

#### **Adjournment**

Meeks moved adjournment; Shobe seconded; motion carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 6:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jim Johnson, Secretary