

**City of Lincoln**  
**Telecommunications/Cable Television Advisory Board**  
**Meeting Minutes – August 29, 2024**

**Members Present:** Demet Batur, Ed Hoffman, Jim Johnson, Steve Kiene, Tim Klein, Laurie Thomas Lee, Helen Meeks, Bennie Shobe, Jamie Wenz

**Members Absent:**

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

**ALLO:** Dave Miller, Shawn Traudt

**Charter/Spectrum:** Dayton Murty

**Call to Order/Introduction**

Chair Steve Kiene called to order at 4:01 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**

Hoffman moved approval of the agenda; Lee seconded; motion carried 9-0.

**Minutes**

Draft minutes of the January 25, 2024, meeting had been distributed prior to the meeting. Wenz moved approval; Meeks seconded; motion carried 9-0.

**Old Business**

*Subcommittee for Wi-Fi Locations*

No report this month.

*Introduction of Chris Triebsch*

Chris Triebsch has been appointed as the new Chief Communications Officer for the City of Lincoln. Triebsch has worked in the past for the Legislature and various nonprofit organizations, as well as at the Nebraska Department of Labor. Triebsch was originally from Missouri but has lived in Nebraska for most of the last twenty years.

**Allo Report**

Traudt reported for Allo. They have recently rolled out SmartTown, a connectivity option for Allo customers. It uses the space on a customer's account for a secure channel. It can be connected to a phone or a laptop if the customer is at a remote location.

Allo is currently testing SmartAg, a smart agricultural product. They are testing it in Chase County, in and near Imperial, Nebraska. The application uses mono poles. It can use autonomous vehicles or drones. They plan to roll out in First Quarter 2025.

Traudt reported on the County conduit expansion. They signed a lease in 2023 to cover all of Lancaster County. Some funding will come from the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD), a congressional infrastructure program designed to fund underserved areas. The goal is to hit every town in the county.

Wenz asked how SmartAg is going to work, and how it differs from the conduit system that is being used in Lancaster County. Traudt said that SmartAg creates a mesh network for the agricultural area, while the county conduit is direct to homes.

Klein asked about SmartEdu for public schools; is that open to university students? Traudt said there is no economic component for public schools. With university students there is a question of whether it would be free or Wi-Fi or monetized. However the goal is to allow free access to people who need it.

Traudt commented on the LPS athletic field Wi-Fi partnership. There was a rollout celebration of the Field of Dreams at Northwest HS and Standing Bear HS.

Traudt said that there was a recent celebration of the 75 nonprofits which were given free Wi-Fi. They just completed their 6th year. Attendance at the celebration was over 600 people. Bryan Oleson from the Voice was the entertainment. They are thinking about having a street closure for next year's event. They are also sponsoring a Nebraska Bluegrass series at Innovation Campus.

Hoffman said he teaches at Concordia in Seward, and asked if Allo is available in Seward. Traudt said yes.

Hoffman asked if the free Wi-Fi at the athletic fields is only on the fields. Traudt said yes. He said, however, that there is free Chromebook access for every LPS student. It picks up neighbors' Allo if the student's family doesn't subscribe.

### **Charter/Spectrum Report**

Murty reported for Charter/Spectrum.

He reported that the Public Access studio for Q2 of 2024 had 2 hours of studio usage and 3 hours of editing.

Murty said that the FCC's Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) program exhausted all its funding in May. To continue connectivity savings, Spectrum has offered a free mobile line valued at \$29.99.

Spectrum has invited the board to come out to an event for Community Services.

### **City Reports**

Tribsch reported for the City.

From May 1 to August 28 there were 999 VOD shows from the three channels LNK City, LNKHealth, and LNKEducation

There were 24.3 thousand YouTube views.

There were 18,501 Views in the live stream, with a spike on days when graduations were being televised.

Hoffman asked whether there is some information that would be helpful to get the word out.

Tribsch said that is part of a larger discussion about what is the role of LNKTV, what is needed, what gets the most viewership, etc. We need to think outside the box: use of social media; think about the programming.

Wolfe said that the City streams all the meetings on Facebook. We push out through social media, and we distribute pamphlets when we are at events. We don't put out a lot on paper media. He said that Wisconsin Public Access does similar things. Tribsch says that some of what we do is not going to bring

a huge viewership, but it can still be important to put out there. But he thinks there are things we can do to improve content.

Lee asked if VOD finds the specific programs. Wolfe said it would be similar to what you would see if you went through our City website.

Lee asked if there are cross promotions. Wolfe said that LPS helps promote the channel when different things come on.

Meeks said she thinks that is good; people interested in health-related issues won't necessarily want City Council events. Wolfe said that LNKHealth does have a great following.

**Public Comments**

None

**Next Meeting**

Next meeting is scheduled for October 24, 2024.

**Adjournment**

Wenz moved adjournment; Meeks seconded; motion carried 9-0. Meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jim Johnson, Secretary