

City of Lincoln
Telecommunications/Cable Television Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes – March 31, 2022

Members Present: Kate Engel, Jim Johnson, Steve Kiene, Laurie Thomas Lee, Helen Meeks, Bennie Shobe, Art Zygielbaum

Members Absent: Demet Batur, Rebecca Henderson, Ed Hoffman

City Staff: Diane Gonzolas, Tim Seih

Windstream: Ann Ames

ALLO/NelNet: Andrew Vinton

Charter/Spectrum: Jarad Falk, Dayton Murty, Arnoldo Gonzalez

Call to Order/Introduction

The meeting was called to order at 4:04 pm by chair Art Zygielbaum. Zygielbaum made note of the copy of the Open Meetings Act at the back of the room. Board members and guests introduced themselves.

Minutes

Minutes of the November 18, 2021 meeting were read. In “Financial Impact on the City” the sentence about use of provider fees was corrected to say that those fees go toward LNKTv capital fees. In the “Roadblocks” section the phrase “mutual relationship” was clarified to read “mutually supportive relationship.” Lee moved approval of the minutes as corrected; Engel seconded; motion passed 7-0.

Election of Officers

The first meeting of each calendar year is our annual meeting, at which officers for that year are selected.

For Secretary, Art Zygielbaum nominated Jim Johnson; Laurie Thomas Lee seconded. There were no other nominations; motion passed 7-0.

For Vice-Chair, Steve Kiene nominated himself; Jim Johnson seconded. There were no other nominations; motion passed 7-0.

For Chair, Laurie Thomas Lee nominated Ed Hoffman; Engel seconded. There were no other nominations; motion passed 7-0.

Old Business

Report of Committee on Future of Cable/Telecommunication Franchises

Tim Sieh has been working on looking at Franchise fees. He has been consulting with Steve Huggenberger. Not much to report yet.

New Business

None.

Charter/Spectrum Report

Falk reported for Charter/Spectrum. He is now based in Kansas City and has not been up to the Nebraska office for a while. He introduced Charter employees Dayton Murty, Senior Manager of

Government Affairs, and Arnaldo Gonzalez, Director of Field Operations. They will be glad to help us if we have technical questions.

Charter/Spectrum is hiring; offering a minimum starting wage of \$20 per hour.

There will be a cost adjustment for the service; TV Programmers have raised their prices, which are being passed on to the viewers. Customer service can give people options if they find the price increases too steep.

Allo Report

Vinton reported for Allo. In introducing himself, he said that he was born and raised in Nebraska; went to law school at UNL. He previously served as Transportation and Telecommunications Committee Legal Counsel at the Nebraska Legislature.

Vinton said that Allo is glad to be based locally. The office is starting to fill up again. They are continuing to hire. They have eclipsed 900 employees total, still trying to fill 300 more positions.

Allo has an Affordable Connectivity Program, which gives a \$30 discount on monthly bill. Tribal members can get a \$75 discount.

They are continuing expansion. Lots of builds going on in Nebraska; they will build three towns in Arizona.

They have not decided whether to increase rates or not; if they do it will be due to programming costs.

Windstream/Kinetic Report

Ann Ames reported for Windstream.

Kinetic is done with cable; decommissioning Cable TV as of tomorrow. They are building out fiber in their 18 states. They are bringing construction in-house; trying to hire about 100 people for those roles.

Sieh said that the City will not be receiving further franchise fees from Kinetic.

Shobe asked whether, if a customer calls and says unpleasant things, there are alternatives. Ames said yes; they provide alternatives.

City Reports

Gonzolas reported for the City.

Jamie Wenz is no longer with the City; he has accepted a job at the University. Beau Wolfe is now taking over the job. Jesse Starita has been hired by the City.

Public Comments

None.

Next meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the board would be on April 28; Gonzolas asked whether we wanted to meet that day, given that the rescheduling of this meeting was four weeks earlier. Consensus was to skip the April meeting and wait until July 28.

Adjournment

Meeks moved adjournment; Johnson seconded; motion passed 7-0. Meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Johnson, Secretary