

**City of Lincoln**  
**Telecommunications/Cable Television Advisory Board**  
**Meeting Minutes – December 8, 2022**

**Members Present:** Kate Engel, Ed Hoffman, Jim Johnson, Tim Klein, Laurie Thomas Lee, Bennie Shobe, Jamie Wenz

**Members Absent:** Demet Batur, Steve Kiene

**City Staff:** Tim Seih, Beau Wolfe, Melissa Fuller

**ALLO:** Andrew Vinton

**Charter/Spectrum:** David Murty

**Call to Order/Introduction**

The meeting was called to order at 4:04 pm by chair Ed Hoffman. Hoffman 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**

Engel moved adoption of the agenda; Shobe seconded; motion passed 7-0.

**Minutes**

Minutes of the July 28, 2022 meeting had been distributed prior to the meeting. The secretary had received two comments: Hele Meeks had noted that in the second line of the discussion of March minutes, the word “complains” should have been “complaints,” and Art Zygielbaum had noted that his last name was misspelled in one location.

Shobe moved approval of the minutes as corrected; Lee seconded; motion passed 7-0.

**Old Business**

*Report of Committee on Future of Cable/Telecommunication Franchises*

Not much to report at this meeting. Sieh will contact Steve Kiene to see what the status is.

**New Business**

*Discussion of potential LNKTV partnerships, programming, concepts, outreach with the goal of community enhancement*

Hoffman led a discussion of potential LNKTV partnerships. He would particularly like to see sports programming. He said that Manhattan has vibrant access channels. Hoffman said that Concordia was very warm to the idea of local sports programming, although probably not live because of the gate. Lee said that there is a blackout rule which allows local media to block sports programming. Klein agreed; these discussions would have to involve showing the event after the fact. Hoffman commented that there might also be a place to air plays, forensics, speech and debate. Or we might show parks and park-related events within the City, or programs put on by the Health Department or Aging. Wenz said that Aging officers multiple exercise programs; also there is Live & Learn. Wenz doesn't think there is a lack of content out there. The City doesn't have an advertising budget, and he doesn't think that spending money on advertising for TV programming would be a good use of funds.

Wenz said that one area which has been ignored for several years is Public Access. When Allo first launched there had been an agreement that Public Access would be available on Allo, but that never

happened. Hoffman agreed; he would like to find out what the status is. Sieh said that is part of a larger agenda; we should put it on the agenda for our next meeting.

Hoffman asked how we might make people aware of Public Access and Government Access. Lee asked if there is any kind of promotion for the Health Channel. Wenz said that there is a very small staff, and they work 80 hours a week. He said a 30 second PSA can take 8 hours of online editing. Hoffman said he doesn't like unfunded mandates. He wonders how we can publicize the access channels; there might be a need for additional dollars. Lee suggested that maybe we could recommend more funding of Public Access channels. Sieh said that PEG fees are just for capital; however the board could consider a recommendation to use some franchise fees for publicizing the Access Channels. Shobe commented that he used to help with a Public Access program, but everyone eventually backed away from that program because now it's just easier for everyone to use a cell phone to capture video.

Wenz thinks that Public Access is a great asset, given the limitations of government access. Hoffman agreed.

*Tours of physical facilities / Tour of virtual offerings and demonstration concerning where located on the Internet and demonstration of LNKTv day to day offerings.*

Hoffman would like to see tours added to the agenda.

### **Allo Report**

Vinton reported for Allo. He is their in-house legal counsel.

Allo was founded in Imperial NE. In 2015, Allo was approached by NelNet who wanted to build a fiber segment in Lincoln. Their service provides at least 1 GB of symmetric coverage. They pay a monthly amount to use the City's conduit. Allo has construction products in Waverly, Milford, Seward, Ashland, and three in the Omaha area. Lincoln office is Located in Telegraph District.

In Lincoln they are partnering with 75+ nonprofits.

Allo supports the Affordable Connectivity Program.

In 2023, they hope to expand within the Lincoln community; they also want to do the same thing for Lancaster County. They have secured several grants.

Later this year they will have an announcement about a Smart Home service. They are also working on an "Eduroam" process, allowing students to download an extension on their router so that whenever they're in line of sight of a router they can access the internet. Technical issues are still being worked out, but it has been beta tested at Innovation Campus concerts.

Allo will have a small price increase: Internet will go up \$3, TV \$3, and basic cable \$6.

Allo is thrilled to be a part of the Lincoln Community.

Vinton said that they want to include the three access channels in their lineup. Wenz said he might have insight on an easy way to grab the access channel.

### **Charter/Spectrum Report**

Murty reported for Charter/Spectrum. He said he looks forward to these meetings.

They currently have offices in 41 states, with about 32 million customers.

They have a Technical Training Center

They donated \$50,000 to the Center for People in Need.

Spectrum Enterprise business group offers 100 GB ultra for business.

For residential customers, they offer Spectrum One for \$49.99 per month.

murty said he was happy to hear the discussion about Public Access. He thanked Tim Seih for the work he has done with them.

**City Reports**

Kelli Britten will be taking the job that Diane Gonzolas had previously, so she will be the board's new contact person.

**Public Comments**

None.

**Adjournment**

Lee moved adjournment; Wenz seconded; motion passed 7-0. Meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jim Johnson, Secretary