

**CITY OF DARIEN**  
**COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION**  
Minutes of the Regular Meeting

October 18, 2007  
**Darien City Hall**  
**1702 Plainfield Road**  
**7:00 P.M.**

**ROLL CALL:**

**PRESENT:** Chairman Mike Vonder Heide, Tony Bilyj, Bernard Durkin, Don Jiskra, Steve Kowynia, Bo Gibbons, Joe Schmitz, and John Laratta

**ABSENT:** Bo Gibbons

**CALL TO ORDER:**

There being a quorum the meeting was called to order at 7:03 P.M.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

There was a motion to approve the minutes for April 19, 2007 meeting by John Laratta, seconded by Don Jiskra. The vote was unanimous.

**COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED**

Utilization Reports from Comcast were reviewed. No substantial differences were reported.

Rosanna Furman reported that internet services do not fall under the franchise agreement; therefore Comcast is not required to provide reports on this activity.

Comcast provided a 30-day notice regarding their fee increase for cable service effective on November and December statements. The increase ranges from \$1.00 to \$3.00 depending on the type of service. Communications regarding channel line-up were also reviewed.

Rosanna Furman reported that the City has received a few DVD's from Cable 99 in Downers Grove. They have forwarded us videos of school programs, which the City would need to transfer to VHS to air on the cable channel. Member Steve Kowynia has volunteered to transfer the DVD's on to VHS tapes in order for these programs to be viewed by the public. There is a consensus that the commission feels the public enjoys viewing their children, grandkids, neighbors, etc. on these types of programs and providing these would be positive. It was suggested that the City take on a "Kids Funniest Videos" contest as this would provide the city with videos that don't need editing and would be entertaining as well. It was requested that Rosanna Furman inquire with the Mayor to see if the City would welcome this idea.

**OTHER BUSINESS/UPDATES**

Rosanna provided the Commission with a statistical report for the City's website. Number of hits, information on Direct Connect and video access to Council Meetings were discussed.

Rosanna Furman discussed the opportunity to seek new ways of surveying residents regarding the City's services and programs. There was a consensus of approval in regards to the communication tools the city has utilized so far. There was discussion regarding Wy-Fy and the pros and cons of this type of service. Members suggested this could be another communication tool that the City might consider. Rosanna Furman indicated that this was something that may have been looked into, but she will verify and provided a status.

John Laratta made a motion that the City of Darien inquire about available usage of Wy-Fy for Darien and see what comparisons there may be of other communities that have utilized this service in order to improve the City's ability to communicate with residents. Ron Snyder seconded the motion.

Rosanna Furman provided the committee with information from the City's attorney regarding AT & T's proposed new television service. AT & T anticipates beginning this new phase of service in February, 2008. There was a consensus amongst the commission members that having another option for residents to use was positive. The commission asked that the City inquire about having someone come to talk with the commission members regarding AT & T's service. Rosanna Furman will look into this matter.

Chairman Vonder Heidi had asked about attendance and participation of the commission members. For some members, it is difficult to attend all meetings due to conflicts with work or other committee meeting dates. There was discussion regarding the meetings and how often to meet regularly. Rosanna Furman indicated that there may often not be new information to introduce to the commission and asked if members wanted to meet even if just to review utilization reports and communications. After some discussion, it was recommended that the commission try to meet every other month. However, if new information is available, consecutive meetings will be held.

Rosanna Furman provided the commission with a quote from Audiovisual, Inc. regarding the movement of one of the cameras. The quote was \$2,149, which was well over what the committee had anticipated. This quote also did not include any costs associated with for an electrical contractor. Rosanna Furman will look into acquiring a quote from an electrician to move the camera device.

### **NEXT MEETING**

The next regularly scheduled Communications Commission meeting is scheduled for November 15, 2007.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Don Jiskra and seconded by Steve Kowynia to adjourn the meeting. There being no further business, the meter adjourned at 8:45 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosanna Furman