

Colorado Channel Authority Board

7:30 am, State Capitol, SCR 353

Friday, April 9, 2010

1) Call to order and attendance At 7:31 am, the meeting was called to order by Representative Benefield. Six members were present: Representative Benefield, Senator Steadman, Ms. Laura Hoepfner, Ms. Carol Haller, Mr. Fellman, & Mr. Montgomery. Three members were excused: Representative Nikkel, Senator Cadman, Ms. Collins. Later in the meeting, both Rep. Nikkel & Ms. Collins joined the meeting via telephone. Others in attendance at the meeting included: Ms. Lastowka & Ms. Graves (Open Media Foundation), Mr. Krisor, Mr. Nachtrieb, Ms. Eddins, Mr. Bart Miller, Mr. Scott Yates, & Mr. Alan Sobel (Louisville viewer and interested party.)

2) Review and approval of March 5, 2010 meeting minutes. There were no additions, corrections or objections to the minutes. Therefore the minutes were approved.

3) Public Comment Period Rep. Weismann introduced the committee to Mr. Scott Yates, a local business man and journalist. Mr. Yates sits on the Advisory Board of KBDI, and has ideas in terms of content addition to the channel. Mr. Yates would like to add Colorado Channel content to channel 12.2, a KBDI Digital SD channel.

Senator Steadman inquired as to whether this would result in a simulcast on the other channel as well as additional programming for our channel. Mr. Yates indicated that it would be and that the additional programming would include journalism school, other boards and commission meetings plus other state happenings locally which are already being recorded.

Mr. Yates indicated that he believes that because the KBDI channel is not broadcasted through Comcast digital cable, there is potentially a big benefit to the Colorado Channel. Most people do not have digital cable and this new connection would allow more people to view the Colorado Channel programming.

Mr. Fellman pointed out that soon all channels will be converting to a digital format. People will be forced to get the box which allows television viewers to receive the digital format. Eventually all Comcast customers will get digital so they will be able to view Channel 165. Mr. Fellman suggested that the Board invite someone from Comcast to come discuss this matter with the Board before a decision is made. Mr. Nachtrieb will invite Mike Nelson, our main contact at Comcast, to our next meeting.

Ms. Lastowka & Mr. Nachtrieb indicated that they met last week to discuss setting an Additional Content Sub-committee meeting date in order to begin this process. When a date has been set, they will advise rest of CCAB.

Ms. Haller indicated that today she can provide Ms. Lastowka with the names of her colleagues who should be invited to attend this meeting. Rep. Benefield suggested that Mr. Yates and Ms. Theresa Holst should also be invited.

4) Update on Televising Judicial Proceedings Ms. Haller reported that tours of the Control Room were conducted. Unfortunately, because the Supreme Court was moving out of its building, two key people were unable to take the tour. She will continue to try to get them involved. Mr. Nachtrieb provided Ms. Haller with information about the budget, other space concerns, and the history of the channel to review and share with her colleagues. Ms. Haller indicated that this topic can now be a "report as necessary" basis rather than an on-going agenda item for every CCAB meeting.

5) Update on Fundraising Event Ms. Hoepfner reported that finding a location that is free and/or affordable is presenting a dilemma. The committee recently learned that the Cable Center is not available on May 13th and another venue they visited is not a good set-up. The committee is still looking for a good space that holds 100-200 people. We may now need to become flexible on what type of event to hold, such as hosting a reception instead of a full dinner, due to space restrictions. Ms. Hoepfner indicated she will be out of town April 15-25th. Mr. Fellman suggested the Ritchie Center at the University of Denver. Mr. Scott Nachtrieb will look into it further and report back.

Rep. Nikkel has a couple of ideas she will check on close to the Capitol and report back. The format of the event will be more of a reception rather than a sit-down dinner. Rep. Benefield wants the location locked down within a week.

Because the General Assembly will be out of session, the preferred time frame for the event is between 5pm-8pm. Ms. Lastowka suggested that perhaps the event should begin later in case people need to come from work.

Mr. Montgomery has a catering contact who may be able to help if the final venue doesn't have its own catering service. Rep. Nikkel's places would require the use of outside hired help, so this connection may become very helpful.

Mr. Nachtrieb was invited to the table to further discuss the main purpose of raising funds. He referred to the hand-out of "Fundraising Costs." Adding rooms and running wiring, adding air-conditioning and other upgrades are all accounted for on this sheet. Rep. Benefield would like to focus on the JBC committee meeting wiring first, across the street. Her thinking was to go big first, then ask for smaller things in the years to come.

Senator Steadman commented that if there are other opportunities to expand within the Capitol at lower costs and without going across the street, he wonders if that would be a better place to start. He thinks the JBC meetings are not interesting enough to televise. Rep. Nikkel agreed, especially in light of the Committee's goal of being cost effective by working within the capitol building itself.

Representative Benefield felt that the content of the JBC (budget) is important to the public.

Mr. Nachtrieb reminded the board that by adding a committee room in this building, it raises the issue of which room to add first- the House or Senate- and then which committee. He indicated that it would be best to add both the House and Senate together. He also believes that because the JBC is the least familiar process to the public, it would be good to televise because it would allow the public and legislative members from different parts of Colorado to view the process. Rep. Benefield agreed, stating that it would even save General Fund money if people could view the proceedings on television because they wouldn't have the expense of traveling to the meeting. Ms. Hoepfner pointed out that the JBC starts meeting before the normal session starts. Ms. Lastowka confirmed that covering the JBC would require bringing on staff earlier and this would change our budget.

Ms. Hoepfner suggested that if we stay in the Capitol building, the Old Supreme Court could be added. Rep. Nikkel supported the Old Supreme Court idea, because both chambers do some budget work in the chamber and larger committee meetings are held there. The room is also the site of more interesting and/or controversial meetings, especially when people travel from a longer distance to participate. This room also might be easier to schedule.

Mr. Fellman agreed, as there are other activities held in there as well, such as activities conducted by the Governor's Office, which would be nice to have on the channel.

Senator Steadman agreed. He indicated that sometimes there are presentations held in there as well, not just hearings. He also reminded the Board that some committee rooms are better for cameras than others. Some have pillars in the middle or are shallow and wide which makes taping events in the room more challenging in terms of camera angles. At this point the House committee rooms are more challenging than those of the Senate. If equipment is added to committee rooms, more effort must be made to insure use of those rooms.

In response to this, Mr. Nachtrieb reminded the Board that the idea of the channel was to portray/show government, not special interests. By broadcasting other events, we might create an impression of being non-partisan. Rep. Benefield said that because the next meeting will be before May 13th, the Board can simply say that we are fundraising in order to expand the number of rooms covered, and not get specific beyond that. She suggested that we all to think more about it because we don't have to specify an exact target until we have more money and more input.

6) Other Items OMF/CC will host an Open House TODAY at 10:00 AM (time correction.) Ms. Lastowka indicated the time was changed because of house chamber time change for today. The agenda was handed out and everyone was invited. She indicated there would be around 15-20 people attending. The purpose of this event is to generate more support for channel through the Open Media Foundation contacts. She will also want to invite these people to our Fundraising Event.

7) Next Meeting Date

a. The next meeting will be held on May 7th at 7:30 AM. Ms. Graves will reserve a House Committee Room and inform all members of the room number. Mr. Fellman and Rep. Nikkel will attend this meeting by telephone.

b. Proposed agenda items include:

- i. Contract payment to OMF
- ii. Additional Content Sub-committee report
- iii. Scott has additional budget item to report on

Meeting was adjourned at 8:13am. Notes submitted by Laura Graves, Secretary.