

LOCALNEWS

KCC-TV gains more funding

BY LAUREL BEAGER
Editor

Dressed as a TV, Cynthia Jaksa made a plea to the Koochiching Development Authority Board last week for money to support the area's public education channel, KCC-TV.

It worked. The board agreed to provide \$2,850 to allow KCC-TV to purchase a good camera and one year of Internet service to allow residents countywide to view the programming of the public access channel.

"I punctuated their day," said Jaksa of the costume, which she also used as a Halloween costume.

But she's quick to note it wasn't just the costume that convinced the board, made up of county commissioners, to provide funding. Instead, it was the ability to reach out across the county to residents with programming.

"Once we get the web service up and running, we can upload video from across the county," she told The Journal. "It really is a county effort."

The KDA money is just a part of a fundraising effort for KCC-TV.

"We're piecing together the money, a little here, a little there," Jaksa said.

A total of \$4,850 is needed to webstream the programming, she said. The Otto Bremer Foundation has provided \$12,000 and the Blandin Foundation has provided \$5,000. A grant is being sought from North Star Electric Cooperative Operation Round Up, funded by voluntary contributions from coop members.

"We're gradually amassing the dollars to get what we need in terms of equip-



STAFF PHOTO BY LAUREL BEAGER

Cynthia Jaksa made an appearance at last week's Koochiching Development Authority Board meeting dressed as a TV. She met with the board to seek funding for KCC-TV public access channel.

ment to get it done," she said, adding KCC-TV has been designated a nonprofit organization and is therefore considered a public charity.

Jaksa said KCC-TV organized about one year ago, and said she believes quite a bit of progress has been made toward getting valuable programming to area residents via the cable public access channel and ultimately countywide via webstreaming.

A membership drive has raised \$2,500 toward a \$3,000 goal for this fall. She said an annual meeting planned for March will kick off a second membership drive.

"We need local members to show support to continue

to seek grants," she said. "It's a partnership between community and funders for this kind of project. The whole thing is a collaboration."

KCC-TV is governed by a board of people with technical expertise, she said. It is now located on the third floor of the Backus Community Center.

She stressed KCC-TV does not create programming; it receives material and airs it on the channel and website.

Cameras to record a public event may be obtained, with training, at the Falls Public Library. Jaksa urged people to contact Robin Bjorkquist, Backus event coordinator, if they have ma-

terial for KCC-TV viewers.

"This is a resource for people to share," she said. Volunteers are expected to film and provide to KCC-TV important local events, such as visits by Gov. Mark Dayton and panel discussions on issues in government.

She said people may use the Falls Municipal Building's council chambers to record an event and provide a disc of the event to KCC-TV for broadcast. And, Jaksa noted, it's all free — from camera use to broadcast.

She said at some point, original broadcasting may be offered, but for now, she said the public education channel will rely on volunteers who provide material.

In addition, the channel may broadcast old movies in which copyright issues are not involved.

Jaksa said work toward getting the public access channel up and running has involved many people, past and present. And she said she's grateful to KDA Board and the other organization that have invested in KCC-TV by providing funding.

The following are members of the KCC-TV board of directors.

- Cynthia Jaksa, president
- Betsy Zaren, vice president
- Diane Adams, treasurer
- Mona Johnson, secretary
- Jeff Adams, board member
- Robin Bjorkquist, board member
- Tyler Borgen, board member
- Joe Boyle, legal adviser
- Jean Evens, board member
- Tim Nelson, board member

Scenic byway plan open for comment

Open house for Waters of the Dancing Sky Scenic Byway plan Nov. 20

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

An open house Nov. 20 will allow the public to review and provide feedback on a corridor management plan developed for the Waters of the Dancing Sky Scenic Byway.

The open house is 3:30 p.m. at the Ranier Community Building.

The Waters of the Dancing Sky Scenic Byway is a state-designated scenic byway that travels from Voyageurs National Park along the Canadian border to the North Dakota border, mostly on Minnesota Highway 11.

The purpose of the corridor management plan is to preserve, protect, and enhance the historical, natural, and scenic resources of the area while guiding travelers through the corridor and improving access to recreational activities.

Residents, elected officials, business owners, and individuals interested in the future of the Waters of the Dancing Sky Scenic Byway are encouraged to participate at this meeting. Similar meeting presentations will be held in Baudette and Roseau for byway stakeholders in those por-

tions of the route.

Through the development of the plan over the past year, the Waters of the Dancing Sky Scenic Byway Council has worked with communities, local government, and chambers of commerce to develop goals, objectives, recommending policies, strategies and action steps to develop coordinated ways projects can be implemented along the byway.

Jon Mason, associated planner with Arrowhead Regional Development Commission, said the byway plan is not a land use plan, so area residents should not be surprised by any projects included in it.

He said the plan includes objectives to reach the goals of maintaining and improving scenic quality and safety. Among the action steps to achieve those goals are making improvements to the road infrastructure, including creating turnout and turn lanes, as well as waysides, he said.

In addition, a project included in the plan is to complete the International Falls Area Gateway Corridor Plan, which includes elements of the byway, such as the addition of signs with the byway logo and interpretation areas.

ARDC is working cooperatively with the Headwaters Regional Development Commission and the Northwest Regional Development Commission as planning facilitator to the byway council.



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