



CABLE TELEVISION ADVISORY COUNCIL OF
SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT
MEETING MINUTES

May 13, 2010, Regular Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
Groton Public Library, 52 Newtown Road, Route 117,
Groton, CT 06340

IN ATTENDANCE: Jim Kelley, Jerry Tobias, Steve Garmon, Roger Roy, Art Barton, Jim Loughlin, Paul Kadri, Bill Hakkinen, Greg Pont
ABSENT: Shawn Greeley
COMCAST REPRESENTATIVES: Sharon Codeanne, Frank Facchini
THAMES VALLEY COMMUNICATION REPRESENTATIVE: Carl Andersen
SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT TELEVISION: None

I. Recognition of members of the public for public comments – None present

II. Reports

A. Secretary's Report: Accepting of 03/10 Meeting Minutes
Deferred to next meeting due to Secretary absence.

B. Treasurer's Report:

This statement reflects the activity on Council's checking account during March & April 2010.

Beginning balance 02/24/10 \$39,542.94

CREDITS

Combined interest earned 3/23/10 & 4/23/10: \$6.27

TOTAL \$39,549.21

EXPENSES

Bill Hakkinen ck# 728 (3/8/10) \$52.52

Cindy Vierra Web Domain ck#729 (5/11/10) \$99.00

Current checking account balance \$39,397.69

C. Comcast Progress Report – Sharon Codeanne handed out a list of Marketing items including rate changes effective April 24th and channel changes.

Hakkinen inquired about the process of rate increases and also stated he received a reply from Codeanne stating that Comcast has no plans at this time to add Fox Business News. Codeanne stated that they have to give the DPUC and customers a 30 day notice and that the DPUC does not regulate rates.

Loughlin asked why Comcast no longer has an iGuide. Codeanne explained that the iGuide is on the Digital Tier and not on the Basic Tier, this requires a digital box.

Tobias would like the Advisory Board to stay updated with new channel line-up cards as they change often. Codeanne will email the chairman and bring copies to each meeting as they change. Tobias also brought up a limitation of the iGuide, not being able to go backwards in the listing as far as he would like.

Kelley inquired about how customers can contact Comcast directly to make channel requests. Codeanne said a customer can call 1-800-comcast and the rep is equipped with a channel request form to fill out and submit.

Facchini handed out a list of 16 shows recently produced or in production. Loughlin would like 1-2 sentence description of each show in future listings. Facchini said he would do that.

D. TVC Progress Report - Carl Andersen reported on monthly stats, call stats from the Help Desk and Customer Service, and stated that TVC was the lead sponsor of Kids Carnival which took place on April 30-May 2 at the Youth Center at the Navy Sub base. TVC also received the Golden Pineapple Award presented by the local Tourism Board.

III. Old Business

A. Status of the third party public access provider.

Update by SECTV on the DPUC mediation process. Dan Weaver & Helen Rush were present. Date of mediation is 5/24 and items they would like to address are to determine the matter of the escrow account and what the area subscriber number is. They started a fundraiser subcommittee along with looking at which grants are available. Helen Rush explained, for ethical reasons, it is a board decision to not start fundraising efforts until they have been officially recognized and approved. In addition, they are actively looking for property, at the right location with good acoustics.

Hakkinen asked what the process of approval was? Kelley explained there is no model to follow and the DPUC may use this as a model for future organization, that's why there is mediation process underway.

Tobias asked about the search for real estate, and if they need to be close to return lines? Weaver stated they would like to stay in the Groton area because it is a central location to the two major cable companies so they can tie into the access.

B. Review of Council goals:

- 1) Advocate cost containment
- 2) Work closely with TVC in the development of new franchise and the third party PEG cable access provider
- 3) Continue to advocate for the needs of franchise members
- 4) To continually review the cable channel lineup and advocate for customer requests
- 5) Raise the public awareness of the advisory council, inform the community of the advisory council's role and solicit public opinions and needs.

IV. New Business

Kelley introduced the newest member of the board, Greg Pont. He is the Technology Director for North Stonington Schools and is the successor for Shane Devine. We are looking for a citizen of North Stonington as well to join the board.

A. Elections - The motion was made for the following slate by Tobias, seconded by Hakkinen. Motion passed unanimously - Chairman – Jim Kelley, Vice Chair - Jim Loughlin, Secretary – Shawn Greeley Treasurer – Steve Garmon

Garmon advised that he may have to resign his post as Treasurer possibly due to new employment. He will notify us as soon as he knows. Art Barton, Nominated Chairman, was thanked for his work on this and years of service.

Survey of councilors

Hakkinen – Asked how they will be informed of what goes on at the mediation meeting, Kelly stated he will email the council shortly after with the details.

Tobias – Commented on how well the Advisory Board website is put together.

Kadri – Thanked TVC for meeting with him on his previous request. He needs to gather some data and follow up with another meeting.

Pont – Looking forward to serving on the board.

V. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Val Koschmieder (on behalf of Shawn Greeley)