

CABLE TELEVISION ADVISORY COUNCIL OF
SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT
MEETING MINUTES

September 9, 2010, Regular Meeting

Groton Public Library, 52 Newtown Road, Route 117,
Groton, CT 06340

IN ATTENDANCE: Jim Kelley, Steve Garmon, Roger Roy, Jim Loughlin, Bill Hakkinen, Shawn Greeley, Greg Pont
COMCAST REPRESENTATIVES: Sharon Codeanne, Frank Facchini
THAMES VALLEY COMMUNICATION REPRESENTATIVE: Val Koschmieder

- I. Recognition of members of the public for public comments** – Dan Weaver from SECTV, was present but did not request to speak.
- II. Reports:** Secretary's Report: Acceptance of 05/13/10 Meeting Minutes – will review at the next meeting.
- A. Treasurer's Report: This statement reflects the activity on Council's checking account during from May through August 2010.

<i>Beginning balance 05/12/10</i>	\$39,397.69
CREDITS	
Combined interest earned May through August:	\$13.22
TOTAL	\$39,410.91
EXPENSES	
Art Barton ck# 731 (5/17/10)	\$34.36
Val Koschmieder ck#732 (5/28/10)	\$100.00
Jim Kelley ck#730 (6/01/10)	\$93.93
Postmaster ck#733 (6/30/10)	\$96.00
<i>Current checking account balance</i>	\$39,086.62

- B. Comcast Progress Report** – Sharon Codeanne handed out a list of marketing items including the upgraded On-Screen Program Guide, channel changes and an increase in the office reactivation fee from \$4.00 to \$5.00.

Frank Facchini handed out a list of 18 public access shows recently produced or in production. Loughlin asked if a description of the shows could be added to future public access reports.

- C. TVC Progress Report** - Carl Andersen was absent. Val Koschmieder read the report in his absence. Monthly stats were reviewed, explanation of the WGBH delivery issues and channel additions announced.

III. Old Business

- A. Status of the third party public access provider.**
Update by SECTV on their docket to assume PEG responsibility for the Groton franchise area. Facchini explained they are involved in mediation and could not discuss any details.

Kelley brought up the 9/8/10 article in The Day newspaper concerning the Town of Groton's authorization to apply to the DPUC to become a third-party provider of community access television programming in the area. Kelley asked that if this bid were to go through that Shawn Greeley continue

on the Advisory Board if he wishes but to refrain from any votes that may concern the PEG. Greeley agreed.

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

- A. An Advisory Board member asked about where AT&T service stands in our area. Kelley states that he has no knowledge of any fiber being pulled on this side of the river to provide AT & T's UVerse service.
- B. Kelley recently met with Assistant Superintendent Nikki Gullickson, from Stonington Public Schools. They discussed the need for a rep on the advisory board and the opportunity to begin an E/G channel in Stonington as there is already a return line within 50 feet of their location. Kelly reported that she is enthusiastic and will look into the matter.
- C. Loss of PIP functionality – Hakkinen noted that with Comcast's upgrade of the On Screen Guide viewers lost the "Picture in Picture" (PIP) functionality. He contacted Comcast and they sent him a detailed letter of explanation stating that they switched to new service provider for the guide and they want to reserve room for future caller ID capabilities. He is disappointed that this feature is gone. Codeanne will pass on the concern to the marketing group.
- D. Next Advisory Council meeting will be November 4, 2010 at 5:30pm at the Groton Public Library. This is a week earlier than the normal meeting date because of Veterans Day.

V. Survey of councilors

Hakkinen – Would like the council to pay more attention to informing the public by possibly adding information or a survey to the council website. Pont will look into the possibility of adding a survey to website.

Loughlin – Would like more call information from Comcast. Codeanne stated they do not provide this kind of report. Kelley stated the DPUC website may offer some of this information and he will see if he can find the URL.

Pont – New principal has questions about producing public access shows, Facchini will contact him to discuss public access.

Loughlin: Is experiencing signal break up at his house. Council members brought up that it may be something specific to his house. He will call his cable provider to look into the picture quality issue.

VI. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 6:08 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

