



CABLE TELEVISION ADVISORY COUNCIL OF
SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

September 12, 2013, Regular Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
Groton Public Library, 52 Newtown Road, Route 117,
Groton, CT 06340

IN ATTENDANCE: Bruce Edwards, Jim Kelley, Bill Hakkinen, Jim Loughlin, Steve Garmon, Leon Palmieri

ABSENT:

COMCAST REPRESENTATIVES: Sharon Codeanne, Frank Facchini

THAMES VALLEY COMMUNICATION REPRESENTATIVE: Alexa Shelton

Recognition of members of the public for public comments – Harriet Grayson: SECTV Board Member.

Grayson would like to submit a SECTV grant proposal at the next meeting for new equipment.

Edwards stated the board would take a look at it when it is received.

I. Reports

A. Secretary's Report: Minutes from the 7/31/13 & 8/8/13 meetings were entered. Hakkinen made the motion to accept them, Kelley seconded. Approved.

B. Treasurer's Report:

This statement reflects the activity on Council's checking account during July - August 2013.

<i>Beginning balance 7/25/13</i>	\$19,491.72
CREDITS	
Combined interest earned 8/23/13:	\$0.16
EXPENSES	
Jim Loughlin ck#786 & 790 (7/31 & 8/25/13)	\$80.94
U.S. Postmaster ck#784 (7/13/13)	\$124.00
W.J. Hakkinen ck#785 (7/31/13)	\$16.99
Val Koschmieder ck#787 & 788 (7/31 & 8/11/13)	\$200.00
N Stonington-Wheeler HS ck#789 (8/11/13)	\$6394.54
<i>Current checking account balance</i>	\$12,675.41

C. Comcast Progress Report – Sharon Codeanne reported on several community sponsored events and Marketing items including nine channel changes. Frank Facchini gave a Community Access Update which included 23 programs produced and/or in production at the studio or in the community.

Garmon asked if the change to Speed/Speed HD has solicited any viewer complaints. Codeanne stated it was a broadcaster change and she was not aware of any negative feedback.

Loughlin stated he is still looking for a Guide to be available for programming on PEG.

D. TVC Progress Report – Alexa Shelton reported on the newly updated VOD system and the continued growth and career opportunities at TVC. Also, that TVC will actively participate in several upcoming community events.

Edwards asked if making a complaint about a station change makes it back to the actual broadcaster.

Shelton answered that it depends how/to whom the complaint was made and suggested it may be more effective to write a letter directly to the station.

Loughlin expressed that he is still waiting on a response about digital break-upon some channels. Shelton will look into it and get back promptly.

The current state of AT&T service (U-verse) was briefly discussed.

II. Old Business

- A. Status of the third party public access – Update by SECTV and Groton on their dockets to assume PEG. Facchini stated a MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) was submitted to PURA for consideration, waiting to hear back from them. No ETA given. Edwards asked if the MOU is available for the public to view and if any details can be discussed. Facchini & Greeley both agreed that it cannot be commented on and PURA will post it to their website as soon as they deem it to be available.
- B. Grant award reports from participating towns.
None have been turned into Edwards. The Council will be sending out a letter to the towns asking for these reports.
- C. Increase/Review membership
Edwards will continue the effort on getting participation. Loughlin unfolded interest from Groton BOE, they will bring forward 1-2 people to make the council meetings. N Stonington and Voluntown are still in need of representation. N Stonington was to have a rep at the meeting tonight but did not. Greeley stated that a representative from the Groton Library will be in official attendance once the PEG issue has been resolved.

III. New Business

- A. Education of CTACSC members on PEG studio operations
Edwards requested to have a studio tour of TOG and SECTV for council members. Facchini & Greeley both agreed and will send proposed date/times to Edwards.
- B. Possible production of CTASCS-Public Access Information program
The Council would like to produce and air an informational film about what the board does on PEG. Hakkinen agreed to Chair the project. Greeley will send the previous film the board produced years ago for review and to use as a template.
- C. Pros and Cons of monthly agenda vs bimonthly
It was unanimously agreed upon to leave the meeting on a bimonthly schedule. The door has been left open for future change if business topics increase and the need arises.

IV. Survey of councilors

No communications: Garmon, Palmieri, Hakkinen, Kelley

Loughlin made a Motion that the Advisory Board goes on record in favor of al a carte cable pricing. Kelley seconded. After much discussion of the many pros and cons on this debate a vote was taken. All in favor (5), 1 abstention by Palmieri, 0 opposed. Passed.

Edwards: Received 2 communications directed at Comcast. One customer in Pawcatuck moved to Ledyard and had comments on her installation. Another customer received a bill for cable services that they never used and is having difficulty get this addressed. Edwards handed these 2 letters to Codeanne who will look into them.

- V. **Adjournment** – Meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m. November 14, 2013 is the next meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,