

CABLE ADVISORY COUNCIL OF SOUTH CENTRAL CT

April 28, 2022

Present: Rob Becker, Steve Fuest, Margot Hardenberg, David Weinberg, John Woods

Guest: Matt Skane from Comcast

Call order

7:04 pm

Public Comments

None

Comcast Report: Matt Skane

Please see attached for info on Affordable Connectivity and joint venture with Charter Communications for streaming platform.

David asked about complaint from the woman at the Senior Center and if Matt was able to follow-up on that. Discussion followed. The matter was closed out on the 8th.

David asked if there are special rates for people in senior housing? Discussion followed. Matt says it depends on the situation. Matt shared some details.

Discussion followed about overall Comcast subscriptions and customer service.

Steve asked about upload and download speeds. Matt said there is something on the horizon for improving upload speed. Discussion followed.

PSA

None.

Secretary's Report

Steve moves to approve. Rob seconds. All approved.

Correspondence

None. Matt mentioned some of the foreign language channels have been adjusted on certain tiers. There is a website we can go to for monitoring channel updates.

John asked about MeTV+ being replaced with The Story Channel. Matt said there is no plans to bring back MeTV+. Discussion followed.

David talked about letter from Wallingford talking about the PURA docket for the revenue formula. David spoke with Walter Mann who spoke to Susan Huizenga. Walter and David

expressed that there was insufficient time to respond to it as the letter came out a week before the decision. Discussion followed as to the content of the letter and what it proposes to change. More time is needed to study the proposal.

David asked about the funding being reduced do to a request from a Comcast competitor. Discussion followed.

David shared that PURA did some consolidation and reorganizing and we should become familiar with EOE as they now have oversight.

Discussion followed on the proposed change from Wallingford to the 60/40 formula.

David asked Matt about the new streaming joint venture and what the impact would be to funding for PEG stations. Matt had no firm answers and said that it depends on the legislature. There are many bills all over the country to include internet in per subscriber fees for PEG funding.

Frontier Council Report

Steve spoke about legislation that would include internet subscription as PEG funding. The terms they are using is anything “on the wire”. Steve felt PEG’s future is in streaming. Steve asked Matt if Comcast would put public access on the Flex network.

David shared more of his discussion with Walter about industry opposition to public access. The argument is PEG is outdated. Most PEGs are moving toward streaming. Discussion followed. The technology has changed but the concerns for free speech and local news have not changed. Discussion followed on legislation, pass through of funding mandate, etc.

The meeting was only a half hour and this was the main topic.

Unfinished Business

PURA Reports: There are no outstanding PURA reports.

Update Website: The website has been updated.

Treasurer’s report

Margot presented the Treasurers Report.

New Business

Margot said there was a Senate bill stating that anyone paying an internet bill would pay a little fee for PEG Access. League of Women Voters had a presentation on it as well. Margot to share link.

Annual Meeting: Do we do it through Zoom or at North Branford?

Do we continue having live meetings. No one is opposed to having a live meeting at North Branford.

David asked about the nominating committee. Discussion followed. Steve will contact Tom and Alden to determine if they want to remain an officer. David and Margot intend to remain as Chair and Vice President respectively.

Other Business

None

Town Reports

Madison: Non from Madison

Guilford: Shannon shared about the Strategic Plan. The plan is adopted and first year implementation has begun. Our focus is on outreach for generating more programs and funding. David shared his thoughts on the process.

No other town reports.

David shared about the Peace Education Network. GCTV contributed services last year, for this Global effort in discussing the skills that can be learned to participate in a peaceful world.

David will make available last year's video to all access stations. David asked Matt about possible Comcast involvement. One of the key elements of this peace education is that it happens online and on smartphones. Discussion followed. Matt to look into it.

Public Comments

None.

Adjourn

Rob motions to adjourn. Margot seconds. All approved
8:03pm