

Cable Advisory Council of South Central CT, Inc.
P.O. Box 248
Northford, CT 06472-0248

MINUTES-FEBRUARY 25, 2016

Attendance:

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Thomas Dacey-via Skype (Wallingford), Michael Parisi (North Haven), Margot Hardenbergh (Branford), David Weinberg (Guilford), Mary Bigelow (North Branford), Joanne Wentworth (North Branford), John Bairos Ex-Officio-Comcast), Laura Parisi (Wallingford), Steve Fuest (Madison), Alden Mead (North Haven).

GUESTS:

Matt Roth (Branford), Walter Mann (North Haven), John Woods (Madison), Mike Streeto (East Haven), Doug Sisson (Branford)

Call To Order: David Weinberg (Chairman) called the meeting to order at 7:17pm. Matt Roth, BCTV/Branford President, welcomed everyone to the BCTV Studios and offered tours later if anyone is interested. Roth also gave a brief synopsis on the 2015 BCTV Tour de Branford fundraiser, and the upcoming 2016 version. Roth showed two, short video promos produced by BCTV to give a better background on the fundraiser.

Public Comment: None.

Comcast Report: John Bairos (Comcast) thanked BCTV/Branford for hosting this meeting and for the hospitality.

Programming Updates:

- Al Jazeera America ceasing operations 4/4/16.
- Palladia now known as MTV Live.
- VH1 Soul now known as BET Soul.
- CMT Pure Country now known as CMT Music.

Comcast "Internet Essentials":

Flyer are available promoting this program offering 10 Mbps internet for \$9.95.

Comcast "Innovations for Entrepreneurs":

This program features cash awards for winners of this competition. Deadline to apply is 3/12/16.

Updated CACSCC Membership List & Website:

Bairos asked for an updated CACSCC Membership List and correct CACSCC website URL for their bill insert flyer.

Comcast New Hiring:

Bairos stated Comcast is hiring 200 new employees for its Connecticut operations, specifically in the positions of Technicians and Front Line/Store. This is for their continued commitment to improve customer service experiences.

Simplification of Installation Fees:

Bairos stated Comcast has simplified their installation fees so now general installations are \$79.99 and will be listed on bills as such.

Internet Essentials Numbers:

Margot Hardenbergh asked if Comcast had a breakdown of subscribers for the low-cost Internet Essentials (\$9.95) program. Bairos stated they only have national numbers at this point.

Yes Network:

Laura Parisi asked about Comcast no longer carrying YES Network (NY Yankees). Bairos explained that Comcast and YES Network came to an impasse after extensive negotiations and thus, Comcast was forced to drop the network due to that impasse. It is hoped at some point, an agreement can be reached. Discussion ensued about subscribers switching to U-Verse, DishNet or DirecTV to have access to YES Network.

Approval of Minutes of December 17, 2015 CACSCC Meeting:

Chairman Weinberg had one correction (page 2: currently states: "CACSCC felt that the Suspension was Valid." Should be corrected to state: "CACSCC felt that the Complaints may have been valid." Margot moved to approve the minutes with noted correction. Laura Parisi seconded. Tom Dacey abstained. Motion carried.

Correspondence:

- Updates from Comcast.
- Received checks for CACSCC Media Liability Insurance from NHTV/North Haven, GCTV/Guilford.
- Received check from Comcast (\$2,000) from Comcast as required for Advisory Council support.
- Received 2015 PURA Report from NHTV/North Haven.
- Received 2015 PURA Report from BCTV/Branford.
- Received 2015 PURA Report from Totoket TV/North Branford.
- Received 2015 PURA Report from MCAG/Madison.

Treasurer's Report:

EXPENSES:

- Paid \$90.00 to Dylan Klett for October, 2015 CACSCC Minutes.
- Paid \$250.00 to Alliance for Community Media.
- Paid \$41.98 website (Intuit) for two months.
- Total Expenses: \$381.98

INCOME:

- Deposited Comcast \$2,000.
- CD Interest was \$2.68 for December, \$2.18 for January.
- Checking Account Balance: \$7,941.43
- CD Account Balance: \$12,899.91
- Total Cash Reserves: \$20,841.34

Investigation into WPAA/O'Connor/Parisi Complaint:

Chairman Weinberg stated a mediation session was scheduled to occur at GCTV/Guilford. But, Bob Parisi had a family emergency and the mediation session was canceled. Weinberg noted, as well, that there seemed to be less enthusiasm on behalf of Parisi to proceed. Weinberg stated he will be contacting PURA to see if PURA even feels this is something CACSCC should be involved in. Dacey stated he was told Bob O'Connor filed a complaint with the FCC, and that WPAA is waiting on the FCC complaint to be addressed. Dacey says he supports WPAA in how they handled/are handling the situation and believes WPAA was correct in their actions.

Frontier-Statewide Advisory Council Update(SAC):

CACSCC Statewide Advisory Council (SAC) appointee, Steve Fuest, stated the 2-24-16 scheduled SAC meeting was canceled due to weather, and the next scheduled SAC meeting is 3-9-16.

CACSCC Membership Updates:

Chairman Weinberg noted he received a re-appointment letter from Michael J. Freda, First Selectman, Town of North Haven, re-appointing Alden Mead for a two-year term. Weinberg noted that the other CACSCC members whose terms are up, should consult their Mayor/First Selectman to be re-appointed.

Other Business:

-WPAA Sent letter to Laura Parisi asking about minutes being updated on CACSCC website. Discussion ensued. CACSCC webmaster (Mann) stated he adds any files (Minutes, Agenda, Treasurer's Report) within 24 hours of receiving them, and that everything he has received is up there. CACSCC will send any files missing to Mann for posting ASAP. WPAA asked about issue it raised about possibility of returning one of the three PEG channels, specifically the "E" channel, to Comcast for additional funding, and if CACSCC would consider requesting PURA to open a docket on this issue.

John Bairos asked, in Wallingford, to clarify which entity runs each respective PEG channel. Discussion ensued that the "P" channel (known as WPAA-18) is operated by Wallingford Public Access Association, Inc.). The "E" channel (known as WPS-TV) is operated by the Wallingford School System. The "G" channel (known as WGTV) is operated by the Town Of Wallingford.

Chairman Weinberg stated CACSCC voted last year against this issue that was raised by WPAA. Weinberg entertained a motion to re-affirm the previous CACSCC vote. Margot Hardenbergh made a motion that "The CACSCC does not want any PEG channel removed." Joanne Wentworth seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Town Reports:

-NHTV/North Haven: Michael Parisi (North Haven) stated NHTV had another successful fruit fundraiser during the holidays, raising \$3,000. Parisi also stated that NHTV plans to start airing selected Town of North Haven meetings live later this year. Parisi added that NHTV had tremendous positive response to its coverage of all North Haven High School home football games in 2015, and it plans to cover the 2016 games as well. Parisi also re-stated that NHTV made its \$285.00 insurance payment to CACSCC earlier tonight.

-BCTV/Branford: Walter Mann The main thrust at BCTV is the upcoming 2016 Tour de Branford BCTV fundraiser.

-Totoket TV/North Branford: Walter Mann stated that Totoket TV is working with the North Branford High School Media Department's Nick DeLizio on a student video competition and scholarship. Mann also stated that Totoket TV has finished installing their older Broadcast Pix HD switcher at North Branford High School for use by students in the media department. Mann stated that the North Branford "E" channel is filled with programming from the school system.

-MCAG/Madison: Steve Fuest had no report.

-GCTV/Guilford: David Weinberg stated GCTV recently held a video competition for students in Guilford Public Schools. Weinberg said GCTV has added Sunday studio hours, which have been very well received. Weinberg also stated GCTV had another successful "Quiz Bowl" program that was taped in GCTV's studio.

-East Haven Issue: Laura Parisi stated two acquaintances of hers from East Haven, who attended a recent CACSCC meeting, showed interest in serving on the CACSCC as East Haven appointees. However, despite inquiring with the Mayor of East Haven, they have not yet received any response from the Mayor's office.

Public Comment: None.

Adjournment:

Tom Dacey made a motion to adjourn. Laura Parisi seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Walter L. Mann".

Walter L. Mann