

A.N.C.C.

Area Nine Cable Council

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TO: ANCC MEMBERS
FROM: Carole Young-Kleinfeld (via John Repicky)
RE: MINUTES OF MEETING (April 25, 2007)

April 27, 2007

ATTENDANCE:

Darien: Dave Dever, Jim Cameron
Easton:
Greenwich: Stu Reider
New Canaan:
Norwalk: Marge Costa
Redding:
Stamford: Geza Ziegler
Weston: Don Saltzman, Bob Atkinson
Westport: Hal Levy,
Wilton: John Repicky
Cablevision: Jennifer Nacewicz
Public: Doug Dempsey, Paul Curtis

1. Minutes: Meeting began at 6:00 pm. HL announced that Harry Somerdyk is a new member from Wilton. HL noted that Item 7 of last meeting's minutes referenced a special meeting in July, 2006. The meeting was held in June, 2006. The change will be made. The ANCC approved the minutes of the March 21, 2007 meeting as amended.

2. Darien G-Access Report: DD reviewed the Darien G operation. They have been on the air for 6 months. He noted that many of their programs are meetings, which are not edited, except for the addition of an intro and trailer. They operate with 3 DVD players controlled by a Mini-T. Darien uses a 6-CD changer to provide music over the BB. CH 79 also features "Darien Dateline" and went with live updates during the recent Nor'easter. Darien has been successful in getting boards to allow their meetings to be taped. CH79 is currently manned by 6 volunteers. They do an e-mail blast every Friday and received 400 requests to be on the e-mail list after the 1st week. Dave offered a tour of the facilities at the end of the meeting.

3. Financial Report: Bob Atkinson reported a balance on \$7,873.02 in the ANCC account and \$21,833.49 in the Access Escrow account. Of this amount \$20,267 is encumbered. JR noted that \$1000 in the Escrow account is a special grant from CV to help with the Ed Access Awards program.

4. ANCC By-Laws: Latest revision was e-mailed to members on March 22. *Motion: To approved revised by-laws. Approved: Unan.*

5. Pending Legislation:

HB 7182: To create a new type of video competitor. HL and CK drafted letters to the legislature with ANCC comments on the bill. HL commended Carole on all of the research and efforts in following this bill. The ANCC's comments were in general agreement with the bill and the promotion of a level playing field. We will continue to track this bill. DS question to Jennifer: Are you aware of any CV lobbying on this bill? A: Any lobbying is being done through NECTA. HL noted that compromises were accepted by both the cable companies and the other video providers.

HB7179: Provides for a number of franchising situations. It states that the DPUC would have to give reasons for not implementing recommendations of needs assessment, etc. Also provides for increased access studios, etc. The bill also calls for the creation of a state-wide advisory council (to be appointed by legislators) to give direction to local advisory councils. DS noted that there had been a state-wide council when SNET was in existence. HL asked if the Council should draft a letter regarding this bill. *JC motion: The ANCC should draft a letter outlining the ANCC's concerns about HB7179 and that letter is to be forwarded to members of the Council so that it can be forwarded to their state senators and reps. Approved: Unan.*

SR raised a question re: Sect 5 of HR7182. He noted that it still requires PEG access channels and funding, but does not specify town-specific channels. DS noted that the non-cable providers do not have a model for public access at this time.

6. Section 7.13 of CV Franchise: Limits access support to the benefit of franchisee's subscribers. ANCC's position is that the towns and schools produce the programming and it is their right to use it as they see fit. HL noted that this only applies to any funding that members might receive now that the franchise is in effect. At the last meeting, the ANCC asked CV for clarification. JN provided a letter with CV's position to HL, but he felt that it doesn't really clarify the situation. JN noted that CV's main point is that it doesn't want to subsidize its competitors. HL suggested that the Council make an inquiry for clarification of this issue to the DPUC. DS feels that there is no statutory basis for CV to make this restriction in the PFR. He feels the Council should negotiate this issue directly with CV. JC felt that CV is unlikely to negotiate this issue and that we should take it to the DPUC. *Motion: That the ANCC petition the DPUC for clarification of 7.13. Approved: Unan.*

7. Update on 2007 Access Budget: JN presented the ANCC with a check for \$100,000 to fund E&G access throughout the 10 towns. HL noted that CV has agreed to some form of direct equipment grants, but would like to revert to a package of equipment common to the needs of each town. Contact HL with suggestions for equipment items that fill a common need among the towns.

8. PEG Access Issues:

- Public Access – Dolly Curtis requested music behind the local guide. John Sherwood retired from the access department. Hal noted that CV had already eliminated that position in its PFR. DC expressed concern about the staffing for the PA studio. HL asked JN to prepare a report on staffing levels at PA. DS stated that Myles offered private tutoring in the use of editing equipment.
- PSAs were done at CV on 3/28. JC taped a PSA to promote local Govt. access channels. JN said that they should be running in May.
- Paul Curtis: Question regarding funding of access channels and monitoring of equipment. The ANCC has the grant applications and grant reports from the towns. JR suggested that towns keep an inventory of access equipment.
- PEG Awards: HL pointed out that CV used to have an awards program for PEG access in Areas 2 & 9. Soundview still has an awards program for Area 2, but CV dropped any awards for PEG access. HL would like to revisit this program for the future.

9. Annual Meeting: Scheduled for Peppermill on 5/30. Info will be distributed via e-mail. HL presented a number of potential speakers (i.e. legislators, Alliance for Community Media, AG's office, DPUC)

10) Other business: DS made a comment regarding CTN and ATT's ability to carry the programs.

Motion to Adjourn: 7:58 pm

Future meeting schedule-- Annual Meeting—5/30

Minutes recorded by J. Repicky