

A.9.C.C.

Area 9 Cable Council, c/o Wilton Town Hall, 238 Danbury Rd., Wilton, CT 06897 www.a9cc.org

TO: A9CC MEMBERS
FROM: Carole Young-Kleinfeld, Secretary
RE: MINUTES OF MEETING (April 4, 2012)
LOCATION: Norwalk City Hall, Norwalk, CT

April 6, 2012

ATTENDANCE:

Darien: David Dever, Jim Cameron
Easton: Doug Dempsey
Greenwich:
New Canaan: Paul Sedlak,
Norwalk: Herb Grant, Erin Halsey, Art Scialabba
Redding: Bob Moran
Stamford: Geza Ziegler
Weston: Don Saltzman, Harvey Bellin
Westport: Hal Levy
Wilton: Carole Young-Kleinfeld, Kenneth Boehm
Cablevision: Jennifer Young

Excused: Gary Battaglia (Wilton), Judi Freedman and Stan Witkow (Westport) Stu Reider and Chris von Keyserling (Greenwich), Andy Anderson (Easton)

Guest: Larry Manzi, Norwalk

HL called the meeting to order at 6:10pm, 9 towns represented. Thanked Herb Grant, Erin Halsey, and Art Scialabba for hosting the meeting. Welcomed new Educational Access Committee member Ken Boehm (Wilton).

1. The Minutes of February 15, 2012 were approved as submitted. JC abstained.

2. The Financial Report from the Treasurer—approved. HG reported a balance of \$110,917.33 in the Access Escrow Account which reflects a deposit of \$100,000 from Cablevision for 2012 E & G Access support and a balance of \$12,442.78 in the Operations Account reflecting a \$2000 deposit for 2012 annual operations support from Cablevision. A transfer of \$1000 from Access to Operations, and a subsequent payment to the Convent of the Sacred Heart School reflected a donation from Cablevision for John Repicky Awards for student video.

3. Updates on old business:

- A. **Docket 11-08-06 PURA Investigation into Community Access Programming and Operations:**
Decision has been issued establishing formal reviews of community access providers once every five years, using the annual Access Report as a starting point and completing 2 proceedings (review of 2-3 CAPs) during each 12 month period.
- B. **Docket 11-07-09: PURA Declaratory Ruling of the Sound View Community Media, Inc.:**
February 1, 2012 Decision. PURA ruled that it has no jurisdiction in this matter since there have been no legislative changes to existing laws. A9CC did not comment on this docket because the subject did not pertain to Area 9.
- C. **Proposed Bill: HB 5473 AAC - An Act Concerning Public Access Operations and the Periodic Review of Video Providers.** This bill has been favorably voted out of committee and will go to the House Calendar for debate and vote. Provides for performance reviews of video providers and allows for use of access funds for production costs of community access operations. A9CC submitted testimony supporting this bill.

- D. HL summarized correspondence with Weston's Ed Access Committee member immediately following February meeting regarding Weston's missing voucher for E-channel grant and subsequent payment.
- E. Council discussed monitoring of E-channel programming as a priority for the Educational Access committee. HL, DS, HB, DD reviewed the purpose of E-Access funding and equipment purchases—to create and increase educational access programming on Channel 78 for viewing by the community—not for teaching video classes or supporting staff salaries.

JC suggested better networking by A9CC members with Boards of Education and Superintendents as well as I-Net log review. JY (Cablevision) has Channel 78 I-Net logs from all towns and will send to HL for A9CC review. DS suggests inviting Educational Access Committee members to A9CC meetings. JC requested copies of E-Channel grant applications for review by council and need for documentation of programming content on each application. HL suggested posting applications using FTP on A9CC Website.

4. To establish 2012 Educational and Governmental Access grant program

2012 Grant Program was approved unanimously. The council designated \$62,000 (\$60K new funds + \$2K carryover funds) for distribution by E-Access Committee and \$43,000 (\$40K new funds + \$3K carryover funds) for G-Access. Direct equipment grants of approximately \$25K will be available once again from CV for G-channels. Funding ceilings for Government Access grant applications from each town will be individualized based on each town's past participation in last year's equipment grant process. Please consult HL memo to A9CC members dated 3/21/2012 for each town's available grant fund limit.

- Deadline for grant applications: October 2012 A9CC meeting—Date TBD
- Up to \$2000 of the G-access grants may be used for operations/production costs, e.g., camera operators and videographers' expenses. As previously decided, expenditure reports for this purpose should be accompanied by 1099s, time sheets, or affidavits. All previous expenditure reports must be submitted before qualifying for additional funds.

5. Discussion – Annual Meeting: Southport Brewing Company, Southport, June 6, 2012 @ 6 pm. Approved unanimously. Members are requested to contact HL next week with suggestions for guest speaker. CYK suggested Representative Vicki Nardello, Chairman, E/T Committee. DS suggested Cablevision's Wilt Hildebrand. Guests are welcome to attend at \$25 charge. Members may opt to reimburse the council for their meal. Election of officers will be on the agenda. GZ, JC, and HB elected to Nominating Committee.

6. Other Matters:

- As the CAP, Cablevision has received community access funds—as determined by PURA—from AT&T U-Verse customers for use in Area 9 PEG access. A9CC is involved in only E/G access. Group discussed how to get access programming to U-Verse subscribers through a contract that is acceptable to towns. DS/JC motion to request from CV, 2/3 of funding for E/G access in Area 9 and allow municipalities to negotiate acceptable contract terms with AT&T. Motion adopted unanimously.
- JC reminded members of his memo announcing availability of college interns for G-access summer assistance. Contact him for details.
- Will Stamford participate in town-specific access channels? If so, council could consider applications from Stamford as “start-up” program.
- JY reported new IO packages now available and launch of Disney Junior and the Israeli Network.
- HB reported on a Future of Weston Education program sponsored by Weston for Fiscal Responsibility.

Upcoming Meeting Schedule: 6/6/2012 Annual Meeting at SBC in Southport.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45.

Respectfully submitted,
Carole Young-Kleinfeld, Secretary