CABLE AND COMMUNICATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE, Montgomery County, MD

Meeting Minutes, October 22, 2014

Committee attendance: Carl Bretscher, Garry Burnett, Yen Ju Chen, Paul Goldberg, Delaney Higgs, Seth Isenberg, Lawrence Sarjeant, Richard Wells & Pamela Wilkins. Absent: Ted Ewanciw, Richard Freedman & Oneal Puri. Cable Office Staff: Phil Roter & Keith Watkins.

Call to Order

• Paul Goldberg called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM; with a quorum at that time.

Approval of Agenda/Minutes

• Richard Wells read the minutes from the last meeting and Paul moved they be approved; that motion was approved.

Cable Office Report

- Phil Roter, the new Cable and Broadband Administrator was introduced and offered his background. Some high level issues with RCN and Comcast were reviewed.
- RCN will not be building out much more of the County beyond Takoma Park, Gaithersburg and Rockville; they only have 6k subs and are focused on business. Issues for consideration with a new franchise will focus around: will PEG be HD or not? RCN will only want 15 year term.
- A current problem with funding from the providers is PEGs have a lot of CAP funds for hardware but, don't have people funds due to 1984 cable act limits.
- Comcast is going to add lines to the walk-in office centers; it was questioned if this would do anything to solve phone issues.
- Mr. Roter was very interested in the CCAC's position on how we wanted input on the Comcast / RCN negotiations and he stated we will have access to the agreements prior to execution.
- Mr. Roter also seemed to be in agreement that PEG channel listings were an important topic.
- Keith Watkins reported RCN had the worst consumer advocacy group, Comcast has been very responsive and Verizon is so corporate that it cause a lack of flexibility in special problems.
- Mr. Watkins offered a review of the Cable Office complaint operation and current issues. Compliance is more voluntary on the part of providers. Only some metric can be found to be out of compliance and this draw a fine and metric data is provided can't is beyond audit. Keith offered more detail on this and it was not suggested to be a real issue today as they are compliance and not a lot of call come in about this. CCAC find this hard to understand but accept the data.

Old Business

• Issue is still outstanding to get Rockville & Takoma Park to appoint representatives to the CCAC, or respond to the Cable Office request for direction of who else to contact. CCAC now has 12 members and only the MML, Rockville & Takoma Park seats remain empty.

New Business

2015 CCAC Meeting Schedule:

Jan 28, March 25, May 27, Sept 16, Nov 18.

Reminder:

- Reimbursement should be filed for Qtr 2014.
- Next CCAC meeting is scheduled Wednesday, January 28, 2015.

Adjourn

• Meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM

Submitted by: Richard Wells