CABLE AND COMMUNICATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE, Montgomery County, MD Meeting Minutes, March 25, 2015

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

Call to Order

• Oneal Puri called the meeting to order at 7:07 PM; without a quorum at that time.

Cable Office Report

- We did a review of the points with the Comcast agreement; we are getting closer to terms. We can't reach a final agreement as once we get to "best terms" it will move to a review step with County Exec Staff and we hope CCAC, prior to public comment, next CE and at the end County Council will provide approval. CCAC will have around four weeks to review in the May time frame.
- Some elements of the contract were considered confidential and Phil asked they not be disclosed.
- Agriculture Reserve: the upper part of the county wants to get broadband and overcome the high cost of long drops and reduce costs per-mile. County Cable Office had meetings with some 40 people and this could total up to 2200 homes. One option is to allow two years to pay the costs of the long drop.
- Connect Montgomery app Update; Phil handed out another deck and it was another version from what we talked about in November. We talked about the comments from the fall and agreed we would try to provide some of the feedback from the November meeting. The new app will resize content to any device for the many sources of PEG content and should also access other open government sites such as Data Montgomery or 311.
- Verizon Update: the County is still working on any FCC angles to fight the problem that Verizon is unwilling to even talk about any option to resolve the problem with a total lack of any PEG program listing on FiOS where Comcast does work to support this need.
- A review was done of the BCC meeting with the County Executive & CCAC members Paul, Oneal and Richard in Feb where we covered the Comcast issues, the PEG listings on Verizon the problems getting members appointed by Rockville, Takoma Park or Montgomery Municipal League.
- Richard asked about the Ultra Montgomery project and Wi-Fi plans that got recent press by the CE and asked if we could get any input.

No Public Comments

Pending Events

- GO Committee will meet Apr 20 on the Communication Plan reviewed.
- Day In The Life of Montgomery Apr 22

Approval of Agenda/Minutes

• Lacking a quorum, this was not voted on.

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. No new info at this time. It was reviewed with the CE and Staff during Feb and it is our understanding some action is pending.

New Business

Reminder:

- Reimbursement should be filed for Qtr 2015.
- GO Committee meeting is scheduled to cover Briefing UltraMontgomery and WiFi 9:30 AM 3CCR March 5, 2015.
- Next CCAC meeting is scheduled Wednesday, March 25, 2015.

Adjourn

• Meeting adjourned at 8:39 PM

Submitted by: Richard Wells