

Committee Attendance: Jay Boyar, Kelly Cameron, Kernan Chaisson, Trish Evans, Bing Kung, Grant Moy, Suzanne Weiss and Noreene Wells Absent: Mark Berman and Ben Wu Cable Office Staff: Mitsuko Herrera, Andrea Gardner, and Keith Watkins. Guest/s: Dick Lipsky, Melissa Pace, Dr. Costis Toregas and Richard Turner

1. **Call to order/Approval of Agenda/Introduction of Attendees/Minutes of November and February meetings**

- Meeting began at 7:05pm with introductions. Motions to approve the minutes from February 2009 and November 2008 were unanimously approved.

2. **Staff Reports, Budgets and Questions**

PEG Network: *Dick Lipsky, Melissa Pace and Richard Turner*

- PEG providers presented the committee with highlights and the impact of the budgets submitted for their respective organizations. They demonstrated their funding needs and accomplishments. The PEG Network has a meeting scheduled for Thursday, March 26th to find ways to collaborate and align resources.

Cable Office: *Mitsuko Herrera, Cable Administrator*

- The PEG channels are expanding program options to assist County residents. CCM (County Cable Montgomery) is currently repackaging programs to better serve as a resource for the community, to provide information on job training, volunteer opportunities, free recreation options, and consumer protection. Montgomery College, MCT/Access Montgomery and MCPS are also using their respective organizations to provide resources and information to assist individuals.
- Information about the broadband portions of the federal stimulus act and potential county projects was provided. Projects may include fibernet expansion, new WiFi in Wheaton and Germantown, new public computers and broadband education.
- Mitsi also commended the efforts of Richard Turner and PEGs, MML (Maryland Municipal League), MACO (Maryland Association of Counties), Verizon, Comcast and colleagues from surrounding counties who showed support at the Maryland Assembly regarding HB 1182, which would have moved the franchise authority to the state, and potentially reduced funding to PEGs.
- Copies of the proposed cable customer service score card were distributed for review and feedback. More resources are being added to the county website to assist residents with the transition. Keith is working on materials to assist the elderly in setting up their converter equipment.

Keith Watkins, Investigator

- Keith distributed and reviewed the current complaint report and shared some of the issues that are being reported. Mitsi indicated a meeting is being scheduled with the provider to address some systematic problems. Keith also related his participation in the DTS Expo held to keep county staff informed of the capabilities of the department and dtv info.

Council Staff: *Dr. Costis Toregas, Council IT Adviser*

- Dr. Toregas identified that the CCAC works for both the County Executive and County Council and thanked the committee for its work. He also reminded us that the budget process was a long way from being completed and that the next sixty days are going to be tough. April 16th 9:30am will be the discussion for the Cable Communications Plan. Dr. Toregas reviewed the summary presented in support of the PEGs and advised all to provide the Council with "ways to make alive the benefits of the support." Suzanne indicated the CCAC would be preparing a letter of budget support to the Council and testimony on the budget and will resend the CCAC some prior testimony.

3. Unfinished Business and Committee Reports

- The presentation to the Council and CE was updated and sent to all CCAC members. Upon discussion, it was decided that to clearly support this, a vote would be taken. It was unanimously approved for distribution.
- The interview committee will finalize their submission to the CE office to fill four of the five vacant positions. In addition, two current CCAC members are also eligible for re-appointment and have indicated they would like to be considered.

4. New Business

Committee Elections are scheduled for the next CCAC meeting

5. Public Comments

None presented.

- 6. Adjourn** Meeting adjourned at 9:25pm. Next committee meeting scheduled for Wednesday, April 22 at 7pm in COB.

Submitted by: Andrea Gardner, Office Services Coordinator