

Fredericksburg Cable Commission
Minutes of May 8, 2018 Meeting

In Attendance: Fred Howe, Chair
Col. Howard Piggee, Vice-Chair
Suzanne Tills, Director of Information Technology/CIO

Others in Attendance: Mike George, FCPS
Louise Anderson, Verizon
Derek Sanders, Cox
Aaron Button, Cox
Melissa Steiniger, Information Technology (IT) Project Manager

Fred Howe called the meeting to order at 11:02 a.m.

Mrs. Tills introduced Melissa Steiniger, IT Project Manager, to the commission. Ms. Steiniger will be transitioning to replace Mrs. Tills' role on the Cable Television Commission. Attendees introduced themselves and welcomed Ms. Steiniger.

Approval of Agenda

Col. Piggee motioned to approve the agenda. Mrs. Tills seconded. The agenda was approved by all.

Cable Consumer Complaints

Ms. Steiniger updated the committee on the one cable consumer complaint. The complaint was received on Friday, March 16, after business hours. The consumer stated she was experiencing Verizon Wi-Fi, phone, and television services outages since March 6th. The City contacted the Verizon representative on March 16th via e-mail to escalate and to coordinate resolution of the issue. Mrs. Tills contacted the consumer on Tuesday, March 20th, to report that a technician would be sent out to the citizen's residency that evening. Verizon and the citizen both confirmed that the problem was resolved by the technician.

Financial Update for PEG Access Funds

Mrs. Steiniger passed out the PEG Access Fees Report. She noted that not much has changed since the report that was previously provided. Mr. Howe requested the previously disseminated annual aggregate chart from the PEG report to review; Mrs. Anderson provided her copy to Mr. Howe.

Approval of Minutes

After time was allowed to review the minutes from the January 18, 2018 meeting, Col. Piggee motioned to approve the minutes. Mr. George seconded. The minutes were approved by all.

A quorum was not present at the March 15, 2018 meeting. Therefore, no official business was conducted.

Old Business

Flyer

Mr. Howe commented that he had received the flyer with his Treasurer bill. Mr. Howe and Col. Piggee complimented the flyer. Mrs. Tills also acknowledged that the Library did a nice design on the flyer. Mr. Howe agreed and commends the Library on the design.

Mrs. Tills stated that we are waiting for the schools updated schedule before creating the next flyer for August. Mr. George updated that the schools dates should be confirmed next month for the school board.

PEG Funding Project Update – Library

Mr. Glover of the Library was absent. An update will be requested at the next scheduled meeting.

Format Change

Mrs. Tills relayed that all three providers confirmed that they only offer the current programming in 4x3. Comcast could change theirs to 16x9 but this would create viewing problems for the consumer. Based on the information, the commission agrees that no change should occur at this time to the format since it currently best serves the citizens.

Ovation Channel

Mr. Button from Cox Communications confirmed that there are no plans at this time to carry the Ovation Channel, as per the Mayor's request. Mr. Button informed that there has not been an Ovation Channel request from viewers in the area. They currently carry it in Fairfax and that is even under review due to the low viewership.

Mr. Howe requested Mr. Button to research and report an approximate quote to include the Ovation Channel for the City.

New Business

New member, Dennis David

Mr. David was absent. Mr. Howe will contact Mr. David to confirm availability for the next meeting.

Mrs. Steiniger passed around a letter from Comcast explaining their upcoming change in bill format.

Mrs. Steiniger passed around two letters from Verizon explaining their upcoming channel changes. Mrs. Anderson informed that one of the changes is the game show channel has become available on different tiers, including the lower levels.

Ms. Steiniger requested the commission's consideration in rescheduling the next scheduled meeting date due to a scheduling conflict. Mr. Howe requested that proposed new dates be sent

to determine the best date to reschedule. The July meeting will be held in the Large Conference room in City Hall.

Mrs. Anderson has presented that the Stafford Telecommunications Commission only requests cable providers to attend quarterly. Mr. Howe recognizes that the cable providers' time is very valuable and requests that the commission adds this topic for new business discussion. For the next meeting Mr. Howe finds that a quarterly attendance would be acceptable, assuming that there are no consumer complaints. Mrs. Tills agrees pending that we could look back at the ordinance to verify that a quarterly attendance is permitted. Mrs. Anderson noted that provider attendance would want to be advertised appropriately to citizens to ensure being available to the citizens. Mr. Howe did remind that the providers would still be welcome to attend even if it is not for planned attendance. Mr. Howe requested that this be added to the next meeting's new business agenda.

Mr. Howe asked if any other items needed to be identified to add to the next meeting's agenda for new business. Col. Piggee requested to consider adding the ADA Closed Captioning to the upcoming agenda to finalize discussions on it since new member Dennis David has been selected. Additionally, Mr. Howe requested to add expansion of the Cable Commission's duties to the upcoming agenda.

There was a motion to adjourn the meeting made by Col. Piggee, Mike George seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 11:34 a.m.