

Fredericksburg Cable Commission
Minutes of July 9, 2018 Meeting

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

Others in Attendance: Louise Anderson, Verizon
Melissa Steiniger, Information Technology, IT Project Manager

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

Approval of Agenda

Col. Piggee motioned to approve the agenda. Mr. David seconded. The agenda was approved by all.

Cable Consumer Complaints

There were no consumer complaints to report.

Financial Update for PEG Access Funds

Ms. Steiniger passed out the PEG Access Fees Report and the annual aggregate chart from the PEG report to review. She noted that the reports have been updated with year-to-date for Fiscal Year 2018.

Approval of Minutes

After time was allowed to review the minutes from the May 8, 2018 meeting, Mr. David motioned to approve the minutes. Col. Piggee seconded. The minutes were approved by all.

Old Business

PEG Funding Project Update – Library

Mr. Glover of the Library was absent. Ms. Steiniger will reach out to the library to request an update for the next scheduled meeting.

Ovation Channel

Mrs. Tills relayed that the Cable Commission is limited by the franchise agreement pursuant to paragraph 4.3.17 in the ability to require specific content. Mr. Howe directed Ms. Steiniger to request a letter from Cox regarding the Ovation Channel to present to Mayor Greenlaw.

New Business

New member, Dennis David

Mr. Howe welcomed Dennis David as a returning member to the Cable Commission.

Cable Providers Attendance

Mr. Howe offered that cable providers could feel free to attend Cable Commission meetings on a quarterly basis unless a consumer complaint was received. Mrs. Anderson noted that the meetings advertised would require noting when the cable providers would attend to ensure citizens' awareness. Upon discussion, the Cable Commission agreed to permit providers to attend on a quarterly basis at a minimum. Col. Piggee motioned. Mr. David seconded the motion. The motion was approved by all.

ADA Closed Captioning

Col. Piggee relayed that the request for closed captioning regarding City Council meetings was presented by a vendor offering those services. Ms. Steiniger reported that the City Attorney's Office stated that the City has not received a request for accommodation and that the City would evaluate the request when one is received. Mr. David noted that he currently uses closed captioning and does not have issues with City Council meetings when aired. Mr. Howe noted that the topic will be tabled until a formal request is received.

Cable Commission Duties

Mr. Howe requested the ordinance be reviewed to ensure the Cable Commission is performing all possible duties to assist the City. Mrs. Tills updated that there is a Council Priority with an assigned team in regards to broadband. Mrs. Tills noted that the Cable Commission can research any topic, but the City Code currently provides the purpose for which the Cable Commission has been established to assist City's residential cable television. Mr. Howe will inquire to City Council if the Cable Commission can assist in other topics.

5G Highlights

Mr. Howe requested an update regarding 5G due to information regarding health hazards that was identified in a recent news article. Mrs. Tills presented that Section 704(a) of the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 expressly preempts state and local government regulation of the placement, construction, and modification of personal wireless service facilities on the basis of the environmental effects of radio frequency emissions to the extent that such facilities comply with the FCC's regulations concerning such emissions. 47 U.S.C. §332(c)(7)(B)(iv). Legislation passed by the Virginia General Assembly in 2017 forbids localities from adopting moratoriums on considering requests for access to the public rights-of-way from wireless service providers or wireless infrastructure providers. Mr. Howe confirmed the topic of 5G is closed.

New Business

Col. Piggee submitted his letter of resignation to Mr. Howe. Mr. Howe accepted his resignation and thanked him on behalf of the Cable Commission for his years of service. Ms. Steiniger is requested to move forward with the vacancy announcement.

Ms. Steiniger passed around letters from the providers explaining their upcoming channel changes.

Mr. Howe adjourned the meeting at 11:45 a.m.