

MINUTES

Metropolitan Cable Commission
Virtual Meeting via Zoom
June 4, 2020
12:45 p.m.

PRESENT: Christine Lundberg, Chair; Joe Pishioneri (City of Springfield); Lucy Vinis (City of Eugene); Pete Sorenson, Joe Berney (Lane County), members.

Anne Davies (Lane Council of Governments); Neil Moyer (Metro TV); Tom Boyatt (City of Springfield); Sandra Bishop (community member).

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Ms. Lundberg welcomed everyone to the Metropolitan Cable Commission meeting.

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Lundberg called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Pishioneri noted that his name had been misspelled in the motion to approve minutes.

Mr. Pishioneri, seconded by Mr. Sorenson, moved to approve the April 2, 2020, minutes as amended. The motion passed unanimously, 5:0.

METROPOLITAN CABLE COMMISSION

Approval of Staff Recommendations for 2020 Public, Education, Grant (PEG) 2020 Grant Cycle

Ms. Davies said each year Comcast provided \$100,000 of which \$50,000 went to Metro TV and \$50,000 was earmarked for the PEG grant program to be distributed to PEG channels. She said \$24,000 in unspent funds from previous years was included in this year's funding.

Ms. Davies said three applications were initially submitted, but Lane County had withdrawn its application. The remaining applications were from the Eugene-Springfield Fire Channel in the amount of \$32,000 for equipment and Community Television in the amount of \$9,200. Details of applications and funding requests were included in the agenda materials. She said staff had reviewed the applications, determined that the funding requests were appropriate and recommended approval.

Ms. Vinis, seconded by Mr. Pishioneri, moved to approve the staff recommendations for 2020 PEG grants.

Mr. Berney asked about the status of the remaining funds. Ms. Davies said Lane Community College previous had a channel, which was now being transferred to the University of Oregon. Mr. Moyer with

Metro TV was working with the University to accomplish that transfer she expected the University to submit a funding request once the channel was operational.

Mr. Berney said his understanding was that funds could accrue forward, staff was working on a proposal with an entity, and there was only one time annually to award the funds. He said that during this unusual time in history he was hearing from many community groups requesting mechanisms to communicate with others and his concern was whether there could be any overlap with the PEG program.

Ms. Davies said in the past the commission had indicated that distributions of PEG funds occurred in the spring, but because the University was unable to apply at this time there had been discussion among staff about whether to have an interim distribution. She said staff would be working during the next several months on streamlining and clarifying the application process and presenting that to the commission for approval prior to the next cycle.

The motion passed unanimously, 5:0.

Other Updates

Ms. Davies reported that efforts were ongoing to finalize the franchise extension that was due to expire in June 2020. The commission had agreed to an extension to December 2021. She also said there was no new information on the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), which related to the extension of the franchise renewal. The order was in litigation and she did not anticipate any action until 2021.

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

(Recorded by Lynn Taylor)