

# MINUTES

Metropolitan Cable Commission

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

June 3, 2021

11:30 a.m.

PRESENT: Joe Berney, Chair; Heather Buch (Lane County); Lucy Vinis, Randy Groves (City of Eugene); Sean VanGordon, Steve Moe (City of Springfield), members.

Anne Davies (Lane Council of Governments).

## WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS/CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Berney called the meeting of the Metropolitan Cable Commission meeting to order. He noted that the commission was composed of the jurisdictions of Lane County, the City of Eugene and the City of Springfield.

## METROPOLITAN CABLE COMMISSION

### 2021 Public, Education, Grant (PEG) Grant Distributions

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 for capital improvements. She referred to her memorandum of May 25, 2021, which was included in the agenda packet and set forth details of past distribution of grant funds. She said that \$71,000 were available for distribution this year because unspent funds from prior years were carried forward for distribution in 2021.

Ms. Davies said Neil Moyer of MetroTV worked closely with the PEG channels to determine what equipment was needed, streamline the process and assure that equipment purchased with the grant funds could be used interchangeably among channels. Attachments to her memorandum explained in detail the equipment requested and staff had determined the requests were appropriate. The recommendation from staff was to grant the requested funds. She said staff was also recommending a stipulation that if channels were purchasing equipment, that equipment was generally supposed to be used to facilitate broadcasting on the PEG channels. She explained that if content was created, that content should not be exclusively distributed on a forum such as YouTube. Content could be distributed elsewhere, but should also be broadcast on a PEG channel.

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.

Mr. Moe, seconded by Mr. VanGordon, moved to approve the staff recommendations for distribution of the 2021 PEG grants. The motion passed unanimously, 6:0.

The meeting adjourned at 11:41 p.m.

(Recorded by Lynn Taylor)