

SUMMARY MINUTES

CITY/COUNTY TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION Wednesday, June 7, 2023

VANCOUVER CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
415 W 6th Street, Vancouver, Washington

APPROVED AGENDA

I. CALL TO ORDER – 3:37 p.m.

A. Roll Call

PRESENT: Dicker, Green, Hale, Rogers

EXCUSED: Hinds, Shephard

ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Demmon, Halvik, Peck

B. Approval of Minutes for April 19, 2023

Minutes approved as submitted.

C. Review and Approval of Agenda for June 7, 2023

No changes.

D. Election of Officers

Dicker and Green were nominated and elected Chair and Vice Chair respectively.

II. CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS

No communications taken.

III. OLD BUSINESS

A. Cable Franchise Renewal Update

Demmon provided an update on cable franchise negotiations. He informed the Commission that the extension of the current Comcast franchise for an additional year was finalized with the City Council on Monday, June 5 and with the County Council on June 6. He stated staff will be working on amending the dates on the contract agreements with I-NET users for use of PEG funds to pay for transport costs to match the revised franchise end date, which will be discussed later in the meeting.

Demmon reported that staff is still meeting with Comcast twice a month for negotiation sessions and progress is being made. He stated that staff would like to present the key areas of the negotiated franchise to the Commission in a work session in October to get feedback. He said that would be followed up with a presentation to elected officials in November. He said that it is anticipated that a draft franchise will be presented to the Commission in January 2024 and a recommendation for approval would come before the Commission at the March 2024 meeting. The recommended franchise would come before the legislative bodies in May.

Hale asked if there have been any major concerns that have come up during negotiations.

Demmon stated that there aren't any concerns. Working on PEG

Dicker asked why staff chose to extend the current franchise for 12 months instead of six months as was done in the past.

Demmon responded that based on experience, six months does not provide enough time to complete negotiations and get it approved by the legislative bodies. He said that City Council requires 30 days between the first reading and a second reading and public hearing before approval.

B. Comcast Biennial Performance Report for 2021-2022

Demmon stated that the final Biennial Comcast Performance Report was sent to the Commission in their packets. He said that it included comments received from the Commission and Comcast. He stressed that the report is important in documenting cable operator performance issues and is used during cable franchise negotiations.

He added that it will go before the City Council on June 26 and to County Council on June 27.

ACTION: THE COMMISSION UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED RESOLUTION 2023-02 REGARDING ADOPTION OF THE BIENNIAL PROGRESS REPORT OF THE COMCAST CORPORATION VANCOUVER/CLARK COUNTY FRANCHISE AGREEMENT.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

- A. TV ETC 2022 Annual Report and Re-Designation of TV ETC as Designated Access Provider for Educational Access

Hayes reported that TV ETC has had a 25% increase in the amount of programming produced over last year signifying a recovery of programs since the pandemic. He said that a lot of the programming aired on the channels has been a result of partnerships that the districts have cultivated. As an example, Vancouver Public Schools partnered with Washington Interscholastic Activities Association to film several state football and basketball games which resulted in over 50 basketball games being aired.

Hayes said that Evergreen Public Schools continued their partnership with the Greater Saint Helens League Sports Association to cover two days of the live track and field events. The students not only covered the events but were able to get interviews with some of the athletes participating.

Hayes informed the Commission that last year Columbia River High School won a student Emmy for their live sports coverage and this year, Hudson's Bay High school won a student Emmy for animation graphics special effects for their news show introduction. He added that these programs showcase the breadth of programming being produced by TV ETC member districts.

Hayes shared video highlighting programming being produced by the TV ETC school districts.

Green asked if TV ETC promotes its programming on any social media channels.

Hayes responded that TV ETC is not very active on social media due to staffing shortages. He welcomed any suggestions that

Commission members had to promote their programming more effectively.

Green stated that he would contact Hayes about some ideas.

Rogers asked if there was a count on the number of students that are actively participating in the video programs in the districts.

Hayes responded that he didn't have that information available but could bring it back to the Commission at the next meeting.

ACTION: THE COMMISSION UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED RESOLUTION 2023-03 REGARDING ANNUAL REVIEW OF EDUCATION ACCESS PROGRAMMING AND RE-DESIGNATION OF TV ETC AT EDUCATIONAL ACCESS CABLE PROVIDER

- B. CVTV 2022 Annual Report and Re-Designation of TV ETC as Designated Access Provider for Educational Access

Demmon provided an update on CVTV activities. He reported that produced 343 programs totaling 424 hours of original programming, of which 91% was first aired live. He said that CVTV continues fee for service work with C-TRAN, Port of Vancouver, and the Regional Transportation Council which brought in \$44,800.

Demmon reported that PEG grant funds continue to support CVTV in improving the quality of programming. He said last year's PEG grant was used to upgrade CVTV's mobile production unit which is used to cover community events such as Our Community Salutes, the Hazel Dell Parade and WSUV and Clark College graduations.

Demmon shared a video highlighting CVTV programming over the past year.

Dicker asked for clarification that 91% of the 424 hours of original programming was first aired live.

Demmon responded that that was correct. He said that yesterday, for an example of live programming, there was a County Council meeting in the morning that aired live for about five hours, then a Regional Transportation Council meeting that was about two hours and finally a Vancouver Land Use Hearing.

Dicker asked how many producers does CVTV employee.

Demmon responded that CVTV has two full-time producers and five temporary director/editor positions that cover the bulk of the live meeting coverage.

Demmon added that CVTV uses Facebook to live stream City Council and County Council meetings as well as having them streaming live on the CVTV website. He said that some of the programming, such as the Neighborly Neighbor video also air on other social media channels.

ACTION: THE COMMISSION UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED RESOLUTION 2023-04 REGARDING ANNUAL REVIEW OF GOVERNMENTAL ACCESS PROGRAMMING AND RE-DESIGNATION OF CLARK VANCOUVER TELEVISION AS GOVERNMENTAL ACCESS CABLE PROVIDER.

C. Extension of Existing Contracts for I-Net Users

Peck reported that PEG funds are used by local governments for offsetting the transport costs of I-NET services, now Comcast Business Services. She said that Comcast Business Services are utilized to provide high-speed connectivity between facilities and redundant services in the event of an emergency. In 2018, the City entered into 5-year contracts with the local governments for the use of PEG funds for those costs and those are set to expire this year. She stated that since the cable franchise agreement has been extended another year, staff is seeking a recommendation from the Commission to extend those contracts through June 20, 2024.

Demmon clarified that this is just an administrative cleanup that parallels the cable franchise extension until June 30, 2024. He said there is no resolution that needs approval, just an oral vote recommending the extension. He added that staff will be taking the extension of the Comcast Business Services contracts to the legislative bodies and will be mentioning that it was recommended by the Commission.

The Commission unanimously approved the extension of the I-NET agreements.

V. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Comcast

Demmon reported that Comcast staff are unable to attend the meeting today as Samantha Ridderbusch is out of town and Tim Goodman was double booked.

B. Commission

None.

C. Staff

Demmon asked that the Commission set aside October 4 and November 1 for a possible work session.

VI. NEXT MEETING DATE: Wednesday, October 4, 2023 (The work session was subsequently scheduled for Wednesday, October 18.)

VII. ADJOURNMENT – 3:46 p.m.

AN AUDIO RECORDING OF THIS MEETING IS ON FILE IN THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE; A VIDEO RECORDING OF THIS MEETING IS ON FILE IN THE CITY/COUNTY CABLE TELEVISION OFFICE.

Attachments:

1. Resolution 2023-02 Regarding Adoption of the Biennial Progress Report on the Comcast Corporation Vancouver/Clark County Franchise Agreement
2. Resolution 2023-03 Regarding Annual Review of Educational Access Programming and Re-Designation of TV ETC as the Educational Access Cable Provider
3. Resolution 2023-04 Regarding Annual Review of Governmental Access Programming and Re-Designation of Clark/Vancouver Television as the Governmental Access Cable Provider

Approved _____
Date

Paul Dicker, Chair
City/County Telecommunications Commission