

Meeting minutes April 14, 2016

Approved June 9 Meeting / Due to lack of quorum the May 12 meeting was cancelled

Present: Mark Barth, Joe Bonilla, Mario Chiarello, Marc Gronich, Ron Lesko, Elizabeth Richards, Chris Sagaas, Cathy Taylor, Ocasio Willson. Jake Sardos, coordinator.

James Matteo will serve as Albany Community Development Association representative in May. Meeting called to order at 6:01 PM with a quorum.

The Purpose of the Oversight Board is to:

- *Assist in the development of public education and government access television in the City including by promoting the use of the public studio to citizens and groups throughout the City;*
- *Oversee the cable television public access facility/studio and assist the Public Access Coordinator, whom shall be responsible for the day to day operation of the public access facility/studio;*
- *Review memorandums of understanding between the city and relevant entities to assure implementation of PEG access;*
- *Make recommendations on the success of the programs in Phase I of PEG funding and based upon said findings make recommendations for expenditures of Phase II funding.*

Public comment

1. Nancy Benedict, Delmar. Citizen Public Transportation: Things have improved. We have a schedule: Tuesdays 2:30 PM. Programs were interrupted because the server was moved, which Nancy fears will cause people to stop watching access TV.

2. Randall Hogue, executive director Schenectady Access Cable Council. 2 comments:

- a) Warns against entering an agreement with Proctors. "They lied, misrepresented themselves to SACC... a bait and switch then took one hundred thousand dollars without Board approval... SACC sued Proctors."
- b) The last 3 years the SACC Board reorganized. Now works with nonprofits, originates 300 original programs. SACC devised a mission statement.

3. Musa Zwana from Grant Street Community Arts Center: announces a low power 100 W radio station licensed by the FCC. They have an antenna but need a higher location possibly atop the roof of public housing. Tel. 365-4228

4. Keith Irish:

a) Attended meetings with Alliance for Community Media for NYS director Maryann Arrien. Maryann has submitted a detailed letter to the Federal Communications Commission which she is willing to discuss along with other matters with the PEG Board. It is a service the New York chapter of the Alliance offers.

b). Channel Albany needs a second uplink from Time Warner cable: we have a right to it

c). Channel Albany needs more advanced audio and video systems for transmitting Common Council meetings. Recommends PEG Board invest in improvements now because not to spend the money we have will weaken future negotiations with TW.

d). Shows an example of Bethlehem program guide

e). Summarizes recent shortcomings of Channel Albany and highlights examples of public meetings from Wilton and Albany County Legislature committee meetings shown on YouTube.

f). Assembly members Fahy and McDonald have not taken a stance on the PATV.

Mario: motions to establish a Committee of the Whole to work on Board goals.

Mark mentions the Common Council's four "Purposes" of PEGA OB which can guide our goals.

Motion passes.

Chris: We have done well with hiring Jake. We have regrouped: Jake helped move the server, got shows on the air. How do we redress remaining issues at future meetings?

Old business

- Liz Richards reported that the College of Saint Rose approved to provide free content-creation workshops for Channel Albany at.
- Is the Board ready to take action on Open Stage Media's proposal?

Mario: not ready to vote. We need to decide it within a larger context of what we want to achieve. For example, do we focus on 2 channels?

Liz: What was the "bait and switch" with Proctors? What became the lawsuit? Randall Hogue's advice to us is to "keep goals limited and measurable."

The Board decided to table the OSM discussion.

New business

- Cathy Taylor reports: the server was moved to 14 Computer Dr. on March 29. "We unplugged the yellow wire, the move took an hour, and 45 minutes later shows were back on the air."

Cathy will email "*Procedure for scheduling a production*" which describes what producers must first do and then what NSRT does. Cathy recommends this information be distributed among organizations community groups, neighborhood associations, etc. "Facebook it out!"

- Jake explains what his biggest issues have been:
 - Continuity loop!
 - A week with nothing on the air. Jake slowly reprogrammed everything and created a new schedule.
- Cathy passed along a proposal from Tom Brownlie: consider creating a program that updates the community on what goes on in libraries. Call it "Somethings Happening" and cover different library branches each program.

Ocasio: No new programs no new customers...

Jake: Cynthia Pooler who has an Internet radio program is contacting a local filmmaker. Also some of OSM's content is appropriate for Albany TV.

Cathy: must the producer be from Albany? Are there guidelines? [Was this answered?]

Mario: asks Jake about the cable speed of the Internet connection, separate from the library. Jake explains he has to use a file transfer protocol "middleman" Filezilla which can ingest 1 GB in [in how much time?].

Who pays for the Internet, TW? Chris says the Library doesn't.

Discussion of the feasibility of making fiber available to library is inconclusive.

Treasurer report

Chris distributed a slightly modified financial summary from the one presented last month. He asked the Board to identify the funding needed to help the studio. He will also ask Jake.

Mario: what does the Common Council Chamber require to improve broadcast of meetings

Marc: where is the check from the Assembly member's office?

Chris will reach out to the City Treasurer about the check.

Committee Reports

Fund raising

Marc confirms a PEG Board member cannot sit on its fund-raising Board and he has dropped the 501c3 idea. Can board members reach out to people they know who are willing to help public access TV in Albany? How do we acknowledge their gifts?

Did Lenny Ricchiuti fundraise for PAL through the library foundation? Chris will look into that.

In a follow-up meeting with Randall Hogue ask how SACC fund raised.

Outreach

Members will: converse with Cynthia Pooler who broadcasts an online radio program; interview Common Council members about access TV for broadcast; and reach out to neighborhood associations about creating local content.

Liz will consider creating an internship program.

Mario is interested in creating a workshop on how to use programs. This was the original intent so that the coordinator would not be asked to do it all.

Technology

Committee did not meet. A question it asks is, "can non-Board members participate in meetings?" Response: PEGA OB committee meetings are for Board members

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM

Next PEGA OB meeting May 12; Chris and Mario are not able to attend.