

Minutes of June 9, 2016 PEGAOB meeting

Due to lack of quorum the May 12 meeting was cancelled

Present: Mark Barth, Mario Chiarello, Marc Gronich, Ron Lesko, James Matteo, Elizabeth Richards, Chris Sagaas, Cathy Taylor [NSRT]

Meeting called to order at 6:10 PM. Vice Chair Marc Gronich presided.

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

Dennis Karius is concerned about the time slot change for the broadcast of Citizen for Public Transportation. [The Board does not respond to public comment but members were surprised by the change. The next day the schedule time was corrected].

Trey Kingston, newly appointed Corp Counsel, introduced himself.

Old Business

- April 14 meeting minutes approved.
- Draft Common Council Report

Members asked for specific action: who is taking the lead on the report and when will it be shared with every member.

Chris will distribute the draft to all members after consulting with Joe Bonilla.

Mark B. will schedule a meeting with a workgroup – so far Chris and Mario -- to refine the document, set a deadline for release and report back via email in 2 weeks.

- Status of Open Stage Media proposal.

Liz thought we were waiting to speak with Randall Hogue and suggests that Joe B. reach out to Randall to follow up on his comments to the board in April and to respond to Phillip Morris' explanation.

Mark B. cited the May 24 ad hoc PEGAOB committee of the Common Council meeting. Dorcey Applrys asked when PEGAOB would act on the OSM proposal. Joe Cunniff in public comment cited Schenectady Access Cable Council executive director Randall Hogue's comments at PEGAOB's April meeting:

“They [Proctors] lied, misrepresented themselves to SACC... a bait and switch then took one hundred thousand dollars without Board approval... SACC sued Proctors.”

The next day Mark B. contacted Zeb Schmidt about the outcome of SACC's suit against Proctors. Philip Morris emailed this response:

“SACC did sue Proctors and at the same time the Mayor of Schenectady. It was a few months before the Mayor's successful bid for a second term. After public noise, there was no response or reply to our attorney's efforts to take next steps. It appeared that SACC's goal was to embarrass the Mayor.”

Liz made a motion to have Joe B. bring back Mr. Hogue to speak to the board.
Mario proposed we schedule the topic for discussion and have OSM bring us a detailed proposal

- Address outstanding Studio issues.

Marc G thanked Cathy for NSRT's help in restoring live feed. Cathy explained that, with no money for IT personnel, it took longer than it should have: 2 weeks.

Mario asked if each slide for each show on Channel 18 is aligned with Marc G's Channel Albany schedule which he emailed to members on June 3.

New Business

- Status of the current studio equipment in the studio and in City Hall

Background: Telvue is the brand name of the video server installed at the New School. Telvue's CloudCast creates the link on the City website to watch the channel.

-Marc G. recommends we budget to purchase new equipment specifically a point, tilt and zoom PTZ camera to tape Live at Five, Zoning Board meetings, etc.

Marc recommends we contact Audio-Video in the Menands to conduct an assessment for us. We have purchased from them before.

Question: are we required to collect three bids before awarding a contract?
We would need to receive three bids for purchases above \$5,000.

- Marc G. recommends that we set up a web meeting with TelVue to schedule seminars with interested PEG board members. Marc has in mind three 2-hour sessions. Marc laid out possible schedules and informally polled members' availability.

Questions and Comments:

1. Can the training be put on disk to allow members access when their schedules permit?
2. Board members need professional development that builds on what they know. The seminars have to be leveled to members' prior knowledge and experience. We do not all start at the same level.

- Marc G. quoted a message from the Power of Partners Conference he and Keith Irish attended hosted by the Jersey Access Group in Morristown, NJ: “To make public access TV successful is to be hyper-local.” By way of example he cited Citizens for Public Transportation's flyer advocating increased subsidy for public transportation.

- Mario and Marc exchanged ideas about the process and criteria we should follow to decide program scheduling including, possibly, changing the schedule every quarter.

Ron said Albany school district hopes to broadcast football games. That would be easier than four hour school board meetings. Trey mentioned a possible conflict with TW which broadcasts highlights of HS sports.

- Create an Agenda Setting Committee composed of the four officers: Chair, Co-chair, Treasurer, and Secretary to create timely agenda for future meetings
 1. Mario did not favor the executive committee doing it
 2. Mark B. said that the current practice of asking members email suggestions has not worked in the past months. The idea of relying on the four officers is to ensure every member is contacted for suggestions.
 3. The goal is to have agenda items to the chair in time enough for the agenda to be published a week ahead of time.

See Corp Counsel's related comment below.

- Discuss the vision and mission statements drafted and recently emailed to everyone by Marc G.

There were several favorable comments and as well as suggestions for changes that Marc G. jotted down.

- Studio coordinator:

Marc G spent several months trying to raise money to increase the pay of the studio coordinator including adopting the PBS advertising model of acknowledging names and logo of sponsors, but without success.

As the business portion of the meeting concluded Trey Kingston addressed legal questions raised during the meeting:

- As a governmental body the PEGA OB needs to let the public know what the agenda is before the start of the meeting.
- There are not-for-profit organizations to which donors can direct where funds can go. Questions followed:

Q. Is the Community Foundation a vehicle? He will check on that.

Q. Can a third-party be a city agency? No.

Q. Would a donation be tax-deductible? Yes.

Q. Since the Mayor has a community foundation can the PEG board work within it? No.

Trey also referred to the 501©(3) that Marc worked to create and advised that neither Marc nor Joe Cunniff can legally serve on it.

Board Members voted to convene in executive session pursuant to Article 7 Section 105f of the Committee on Open Government, New York Department of State 2016
<http://www.dos.ny.gov/coog/openmeetlaw.html#s103>

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM