

Cable Television Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

Approved 3/3/2021

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1. Call meeting to order

6:00pm

2. Roll Call

Stephen Quist, Jeffery Levering, Marie Dicardy, Sergio Bacelis. Judith Warren (Director, Cable Services)

3. Approval of minutes from 01/27/2021

Moved: Quist; Seconded; Levering; Roll Call (4 Yes, 0 No)

4. Public Comment pertaining to items on the agenda

Mauro DePasquale (Worcester, WCCA-TV): Spoke on item 5c, suggesting that 10 year contract is preferable to 5 year due to cost and time required to negotiate contracts. Spoke on item 6, recommended asking why this infrastructure has not been created yet and if it is feasible for the city. Discussed potential programming concerns with government run media, and if this project would benefit consumers, and how? Brought up state level bills (HD 1440, SD 834, SD 1749) aiming to make entertainment providers contribute to funding for community media.

Michael Coogan (Worcester, WCCA): Requested copies of meeting minutes.

Joseph Brindisi (Worcester): Stated that cost of seeking other providers may be monumental.

5. Ascertainment

a. Timeline – Plan of Action

Levering: Discussed things to take into consideration while planning CTAC work timeline, such as state recommendations and expectations of the City's administration.

Warren: Clarified that CTAC's work is traditionally expected to be completed a year before new contract is set to begin, but this will be confirmed with administration.

Levering: Proposed that chair and Warren draft timeline and submit for review.

Warren: Discussed following up with law department on readiness to work on cable renewal. Will also review past CTAC minutes for timeline reference, then draft a timeline for review.

b. Legal and Charter questions

Warren: Confirmed that a list is being created based on questions asked at past meetings, and summarized current list.

Motion by Quist to invite Charter representative to an upcoming CTAC meeting;
Seconded: ??; Roll Call (4 Yes, 0 No)

c. Contract Length

Quist: Discussed factors going into decision on contract length, such as which cable provider is involved.

d. RFP for cable service

Quist: Asked for board input on exploring alternatives to Charter-Spectrum. Several alternatives were mentioned.

Levering: Clarified that legally nothing stands in the way of exploring other options, though Charter-Spectrum does currently have the right to renegotiate.

Warren: Will follow up with Law Department about sending RFPs for cable services, with regard to timing of ascertainment and negotiations.

6. Discuss City own cable system

Bacelis: Brought up concept of city-managed internet, and discussed other towns/cities that do this. Board discussed interest in this concept and potential hurdles.

Levering: Clarified that internet service may be outside the purview of the CTAC.

7. Next Meeting

April 7, 2021

8. Adjournment

Moved: Quist; Seconded: Bacelis; Roll Call (4 Yes, 0 No)