



# Mt. Hood Cable Regulatory Commission

Serving Multnomah County and the Cities of Fairview, Gresham, Portland, Troutdale & Wood Village

## MT. HOOD CABLE REGULATORY COMMISSION

Virtual – Special Meeting

August 21, 2023 Meeting Minutes

### SUMMARY MINUTES

#### Call to Order 5:00 PM

#### Roll Call:

*Present:* Vice Chair Harden; Commissioner Studenmund; Commissioner Dennerline; Commissioner Wagner; Commissioner Thomas; Commissioner Roche; Commissioner Goodlow

*Absent:* Chair DeGraw

*Staff:* Rebecca Gibbons, Operations Manager; Andrew Speer, Utility Manager; Kevin Block, Policy Coordinator

- **Agenda Review:** Vice-Chair Harden said Chair DeGraw called this special meeting of the Commission because of the time sensitivity to get an agreement in place to ensure public benefit resources are made available to meet immediate community needs.

#### REGULAR AGENDA

R1. Resolution 2023-01: Authorize the Chair to Enter into an Agreement with Comcast for the Administration of the I-Net End Fund

Rebecca Gibbons, MHCRC staff, said staff is recommending the Commission authorize the Chair to enter into an agreement for the administration of the I-Net End Fund. Gibbons said under a Franchise Side Letter Agreement, Comcast retained the funds remaining in the I-Net Fund at the conclusion of the prior cable franchise. The I-Net Fund retained by Comcast is referred to as the I-Net *End-Fund* and its beginning balance was approximately \$4.2 million. Ten years later, the balance of this fund is about \$4.1 million. Gibbons said staff has been in discussions with Comcast for the past several years about the use of the funds for the intended purposes and alternative options for spending the funds. Gibbons said that over the summer Comcast was approached by Free Geek with a proposal that aligned with the discussion around community digital inclusion challenges and needs. Gibbons said staff, working closely with MHCRC legal counsel at BBK, have agreed on the terms and conditions of the attached administration agreement with Comcast and staff is recommending approval.

Marion Haynes, Vice-President of External Affairs at Comcast, said Comcast continues to invest in digital inclusion initiatives. Haynes said Comcast's effort began with the creation of the Internet Essentials program, which now boast over 172,000 local subscribers. Haynes said Comcast has expanded its efforts to include Lyft Zones and partnering with the City of Portland's Digital Inclusion Fund program. Haynes said Comcast is excited about this unique opportunity to partner with the MHCRC.





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**MOTION:** Commissioner Goodlow moved to approve Resolution 2023-01 which authorizes the Chair to enter into an agreement with Comcast for the administration of the I-Net End Fund. Seconded by Commissioners Thomas and Roche

**DISCUSSION:** none.

**VOTE:** 7-0 passed

- New Business; Commissioner Open Comment

**Adjourned:** 5:10pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Rebecca Gibbons

