



Mt. Hood Cable Regulatory Commission

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

MT. HOOD CABLE REGULATORY COMMISSION

Hybrid – Zoom and Open Signal, Portland, Oregon

October 21, 2024 Meeting Minutes -- **APPROVED**

SUMMARY MINUTES

Call to Order 6:30 PM

Roll Call:

Present: Chair DeGraw, Vice Chair Harden; Commissioner Goodlow; Commissioner Dennerline; Commissioner Thomas

Absent: Commissioner Wagner (excused)

Staff: Seema Kumar, BPS Chief of Community Technology; Andrew Speer, Utility Manager; Rebecca Gibbons, MHCRC Operations; Rana DeBey, MHCRC Grants Manager; Laura Dyer, MHCRC Compliance Analyst; Douglas Imaralu, MHCRC Financial Manager; Kevin Block, Policy Coordinator; Kathleen Lefebvre, MHCRC Administrative Specialist

- Chair Reminders: Chair DeGraw reviews the public meeting etiquette and protocols and introduces Mark Wolf from LGLG, P.C., MHCRC Legal Counsel, who is in attendance virtually to provide Commissioners, MHCRC Staff, and members of the public legal counsel for Public Comment.
- Agenda Review: Chair DeGraw seeks Commissioner approval to move *R1 agenda item to the final Regular agenda item due to schedules. Commissioners agree.
- Disclosures: Vice Chair Harden notes that he engaged in a conversation with Tim Goodman at the Waitlist-Zero event regarding the Comcast Franchise Renewal, specifically talking about the fact that Tim and Andrew were meeting but Vice Chair Harden emphasized that specifics of those meetings were not discussed.
- Public Comment (non-agenda items): Sue Dicile addresses the Commission and provides Public Comment on the Regular Agenda item “*R1. Public Hearing - Comcast Franchise Renewal” timeline and expressed her concern that sufficient time to review and understand this Agenda item has not been given to the public.
- Community Media Center Updates
 - MetroEast – John Lugton Head of Production, and Seth Ring, MetroEast Director of Education & Volunteers shares with Commissioners program updates including a collaboration with League of Women’s Voters. David Elkin gives an update on Building repairs and equipment updates.
 - Open Signal – Courtney Rae yields the time to the Public Comments section of the agenda.





Mt. Hood Cable Regulatory Commission

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

- Franchisee Activity Report
 - Zply- not present
 - Comcast – Tim Goodman updates the Commission on Comcast reaching an agreement with Fox on the Big Ten agreement and the blackout, and various Comcast-involved community projects.

***CONSENT AGENDA – NO DISCUSSION**

All items listed below may be enacted by one motion and approved as consent agenda items. Any item may be removed from the consent agenda and considered separately if a member of the Commission so requests.

C1. September 16, 2024 Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Commissioner Dennerline moved to approve the September 16, 2024 Meeting Minutes. Vice Chair Harden seconded.

VOTE: 5-0 passed

REGULAR AGENDA

R1. (was R2.) FY2023-24 MHCRC Year-End Financial Report (unaudited) (Informational only)

Douglas Imaralu, MHCRC Finance Manager, provided the Commissioners an overview of the FY24 report about the MHCRC's financial activities and status of certain elements of the MHCRC's Fund at year-end. Imaralu highlights that the purpose of the Annual Year-End Financial Report (Unaudited) is to provide the MHCRC an informal report about the MHCRC's financial activities and status of certain elements of the MHCRC's Fund at year-end.

Imaralu highlighted that in FY 2023-24, the MHCRC collected \$3,659,225 in PEG Fee revenues from the cable franchises, a 10.1% decrease from the previous fiscal year. However, the MHCRC Fund gained \$276,473 in interest revenue during the same period.

DISCUSSION: Commissioner Goodlow requests clarification on the expenditures budget vs. actuals, Imaralu outlined and confirmed that some professional services and franchise contract negotiations did not take place in FY23 and therefore the funds went unspent and subsequently rolled over to this fiscal year. Commissioner Thomas notes the unknowns in prior years as we budgeted for legal consulting services to address Franchise Renewals and the uncertainty of personnel cost, setting aside resources that in the Actuals show unallocated.

R2. (was R3.) MHCRC Strategic Planning (Information Only)

Rebecca Gibbons, MHCRC Operations, provides a PowerPoint presentation on the MHCRC Strategic Planning updates and emphasized the goals of the strategic planning process. Gibbons outlined four possible future scenarios along with revenue flows and next steps which entails engagement around which scenario is resonating and issues and challenges with each scenario. Gibbons also encourages Commissioners to reach out to Staff with any new ideas of opportunities or paths to pursue going





Mt. Hood Cable Regulatory Commission

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

forward. These scenarios presented tonight will be refined over the next few weeks and an updated version will be presented by NEX Strategies at the December 3rd roundtable with Jurisdictions City Managers, the full Commission and Nancy Werner, MHCRC Legal Counsel with the goal to develop some shared consensus.

DISCUSSION: Chair DeGraw notes this agenda item lends itself to the next agenda item, Comcast Franchise Renewal, as we are embarking on change and the future of the MHCRC is unfolding and forming simultaneously.

***R3. (was *R1.) Public Hearing - Comcast Franchise Renewal**

Chair DeGraw outlines that this public hearing is to take comment and input on the proposed public benefits of renewed cable franchise with Comcast and this is the beginning of a public process. She notes that the Commission is committed to having future opportunities for public engagement, if needed. Commissioner Thomas seeks a point of order clarification on if a Public Hearing needs to be a separate process from a Commission Meeting. Mark Wolf suggests that this agenda item is delineated adequately to not close the meeting to begin the Public Hearing. Chair DeGraw reviewed the order of the Public Hearing. Andrew Speer, Franchise Utility Program Manager and MHCRC staff provided a presentation about the components of its proposed franchise and related issues. Speer highlighted key items and an issues list, referencing 14 material items that were negotiated. Among the key items Speer highlighted: renew and implement a 10-year term of agreement; removal of section and references to I-NET; GAAP changes can be reported and vetted via the audit process with Comcast; PEG Fee percentage negotiated; Review of records are held to the term of the agreement; Ensures data security is observed; and revising notice requirement to allow for electronic reporting. Speer then reviews next steps, noting that the Commission decides on how to move forward within the framework of presenting to Jurisdiction Councils for approval, and Speer notes that negotiations and steps forward will remain transparent. Tim Goodman, Senior Director of Government Regulatory Affairs at Comcast made his presentation, sharing Comcast's views on the proposed franchise, including Comcast believes the agreement works for both parties, having updated the language as it relates to the FCC 621 ruling. Tim Goodman gave history and context on I-NET and the PEG fee. Commissioners had an opportunity to ask questions of the presenters, there were no questions.

Chair DeGraw then invited comment from other cable franchise holders, however none were present.

Public Comment began (summarized below) with In-Person sign up, 3 minutes per person, the Commissioners then heard Public Comment from virtual attendees, and finally Chair DeGraw read written Public Comment.

Public Comment – Summarized:

NAME - AFFILIATION:

Julie Omelchuck, Seth Ring, John Lugton, David Elkin-Bram, Rebecca Cassady – MetroEast

[In lieu of the 5 listed using 3 minutes each, Julie Omelchuck will have 15 minutes for public comment]

Julie Omelchuck, President of the MetroEast Community Media Board, recognizes the MetroEast members present and appreciates the opportunity to share with the Commission public comment. Julie





Mt. Hood Cable Regulatory Commission

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

expresses concern that there has not been adequate time for the public to fully digest the changes to the proposed franchise contract, given the health and well-being of community media services for our communities relies on these agreements. Julie presents a graph that shows with widening gap between the actual and future community needs compared to the PEG fee funding at the current 3% and the proposed 2.5% funding. She suggests Commissioners consider how have Community Needs been considered with this PEG fee proposed reduction. Julie suggests that Section 5 PEG access language is overly broad, and the proposed shift will cost your cities and county of some PEG services from allowable public benefit obligations currently provided and funded by Comcast. Julie requests further contemplation of Sections 5.2b; 5.4a and b; 5.5b; 5.7; 5.10a and 5.11. Julie highlights that the Federal Cable Act allows MHCRC to include franchise requirements that support PEG capital costs reasonable to meet future cable-related needs and interests to the community.

Jim Bruce - Open Signal, IT Director, Franchise Recipient

Jim notes that the PEG capital funds is what allows us to deliver our content on all 5 channels, and the studio we are in was built from PEG funding. Notably, recently Open Signal was involved in a project building out the City of Portland's 1900 Building, a permanent meeting space for the City of Portland, which was funded by PEG fees and granted to Open Signal by MHCRC. Jim emphasized that the equipment is not cheap, and it does not last forever and therefore a continued funding source is necessary to keep them in operation. Jim highlights section 5.2 and rewriting the upgrading technology improvement section of the cable advancements, which will likely involve transitioning to 4k which will require a complete replacement of equipment. Section 8.1b calling out for the technology assessment at the 4-year mark, request to include the PEG centers so information can be made available to purchase hardware.

Nanda D'Agostino - Open Signal – Member

Nanda expresses dislike for the reduction in PEG fee in the current proposal, and notes that Open Signal Community Media Center is one of the most valuable institutions in the City of Portland. Shares story of her first encounter with Open Signal, and the ongoing welcoming environment at Open Signal. She values the access to superb equipment and the community benefits of the technology.

Red Tail Hawk – Member of the Klamath Tribes living in Portland, Oregon

Red Tail Hawk has been involved in media work focused on the vitalization of their tribal languages. Just over 4 years ago they received media training at Open Signal, a transformative experience not only personally but also for their community and culture. Many tribal languages were lost in the US' effort to assimilate Native peoples, a painful process. Media training helped reconnect their culture and voice, giving deep meaning to their work, while providing closure and an opportunity to give back and support community. Red Tail Hawk notes the idea of manifest destiny and portrayals of Native Americans in the country were cemented in the public consciousness through the media, however, now we can reverse that by uplifting indigenous voices through community media. Red Tail Hawk requests to not cut the PEG fee, and hopes Commissioners consider input, and expresses gratitude to the Commission.

Sue Dicile – Former Commissioner

Sue notes that she received the packet last week and has not had adequate time to review. Sue highlights that Comcast pays no fees for the use of public rights of way, yet they depend on our rights of





Mt. Hood Cable Regulatory Commission

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

way. Sue inquires what was traded for the PEG fee reduction? Sue expresses frustration that this Comcast Franchise Renewal is possibly going forward without public involvement or discussion.

Guada Yin – Open Signal – Member and Cohort member

Guada shares her story and positive experience of being a 2024 Open Signal cohort member.

Sarah Cousins – MetroEast member – Resident of Portland

Sarah notes that due to the late notice, she has not had the time to review packet documents. Requests the Commission extends the time for review and input before voting on the Franchise Renewal. She would like the Commission to consider if there are other revenue sources. And requests a glossary of language and acronym guide to be provided.

Tanner Mcullough – Pickathon Media Director

Tanner shares with the Commission his background and his appreciation for the Community Media Centers and the importance of funding for the future of these organizations.

Loren Coulter – MetroEast – Resident of Gresham

Loren is speaking on behalf of his personal experience in producing projects, although he has worked at MetroEast for 35 years. PEG access fees make a big impact on the community, including the public keeping in touch with local governments. Loren requests the Commission put off voting on the contract, or if deciding to vote on it to reject the terms of the Contract.

April Lambert – MetroEast – Yona's kids

April expresses appreciation for everyone present and emphasized appreciation for Comcast being present. April shares her personal story of the positive impact of Community Media in her life. April requests the Commission negotiate more funding.

Chris Polanco – Open Signal – Manager of production services

Chris expresses appreciation for Open Signal and notes that the services Open Signal provides are not possible without the PEG fee contribution.

Noah Hale – MetroEast / Open Signal – Resident of Mill Park area

Noah shares his story and particularly that the PCC multimedia production program which is valuable as a community resource.

Dre Gray – Open Signal Co-Chairperson and Cyma Space

Dre shares his story with the Commission, and further expands on how the Open Signal network supports the deaf community. Dre notes that the deaf community, which require dedicated resources and programming using state of art technology and software, has greater needs than the current PEG fee can address.

PC Perry – MetroEast

PC gives an overview of MetroEast and their community media work and the importance of Community Media.





Mt. Hood Cable Regulatory Commission

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Anna Mane -

Anna shares her immigrant story and the importance of how Community Media Centers have helped in gaining access to the internet.

Katmeow Garcia – Open Signal – Portland resident

KatMeow expresses appreciation for the Commission for this opportunity. KatMeow gives an overview of Open Signal mission, current programming, and reasons for funding Community Media Centers.

Nili Yosha – Outside the Frame, Executive Director

Nili presented to the Commission on behalf of 100 homeless youth / year, noting that the PEG funding is the funding source to training youth in filmmaking and an important aspect in changing lives.

Karim Hassanein – Open Signal Board

Karim expresses appreciation to the Commission. Karim is concerned on the public notification of this agenda item and would like more information on the negotiation process. Karim notes that Comcast profits from the public right of way. Karim would like to see a clear triggering sub clause for PEG funding from ISPs in the next 10 years, which is currently under debate at the FCC. Karim would like a renegotiation clause in the event of regulation change. Karim also urges the Commission to hold firm on the current 3% PEG fee.

Xochilth Franklin – Open Signal Treasurer, Board of Directors

Xochilth highlights that this agreement does not receive any funding from non-cable service revenues, such as Internet. Xochilth outlines Comcast services and the current funding/fee structure available to Community Media Centers. Xochilth requests that in Section 5.10a to add language to ensure that Comcast will carry local access channels on their streaming services.

Rebecca Fish – IMG Founder – Seneca, Tuscarora and Sicilian American

Rebecca shares her story, expressing that media training programs are making a difference in Native Americans' lives. Rebecca emphasizes that the PEG funding changes lives, and MHCRC is directly contributing to the employment in our Community.

Addison Woodside – Member Open Signal and Portland resident

Addison shares her story on creating her own TV show through Open Signal. Addison requests that Commissioners slow the process and do not vote on the presented Franchise Agreement without considering public comment.

Edgar Garcia Chavez – Open Signal Producer

Edgar shares his story creating content at Open Signal, and the content produced does make a positive difference in lives.

Richard Donin – Portland resident

Richard notes that all the programs that are supported by the PEG fee make for a rich community and hopes the Commission consider negotiating in full support of all these programs represented tonight.

Chair DeGraw reads all Public Comment that was submitted via email, attached to these Minutes.





Mt. Hood Cable Regulatory Commission

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Chair DeGraw notes this is the time for Commissioners to engage in a conversation and ask questions of the presenters of the Franchise Agreement but given the late hour requests feedback on how to proceed. Vice Chair Harden expresses appreciation to Chair DeGraw for making time tonight to get all the Public Testimony into the record, and to Andrew Speer and Tim Goodman for their hard work that has brought us to this point. Then, Commissioners discussed the issues and provided direction to staff about how to move forward on the franchise, which included extending the deadline of submitted written comment to December 9th (one week before our December 16th meeting), another Public Hearing at the December 16th Regular MHCRC Meeting that continues the "Discussion" portion of the Public Hearing.

Chair DeGraw notes that Commissioner Goodlow was excused from the meeting at 9:00 pm due to a previously arranged commitment.

MOTION: Vice Chair Harden moves to vote on the Comcast Franchise Renewal at the December 16th Regular Meeting, Commissioner Dennerline seconds.

VOTE: 4-0 passed

MOTION: Vice Chair Harden moves to keep written comment open until December 9th; Commissioner Dennerline seconds.

VOTE: 4-0 passed

MOTION: Commissioner Dennerline moves to move the Discussion portion of Comcast Franchise Renewal Agenda item to the December 16th Regular Meeting; Vice Chair Harden seconds.

VOTE: 4-0 passed

It was discussed that the same proposal be brought back to the Commission at the December 16th Regular Meeting at which point the Commissioners may need to decide whether to vote on the contract, or request changes. Mark Wolf suggests that negotiations can continue but the same proposal needs to be brought back to the Commission as this is a hearing that is being continued at a future Meeting.

Staff Activity

- Legislative Advocacy Report- Kevin Block asked Commissioners to reach out to him with questions, but noted his report is in the packet of materials sent out.
- Compliance Consumer Protection Report – Laura Dyer shares the Cable Complaint Summary and highlighted services implicated are now called out on the report, meaning a differentiation between internet and cable. This information is included in the Info Only Packet Materials. Dyer shares the Notice of Non-Compliance to Ziplly Fiber that was issued on September 17, 2024. Dyer then shares a notice from Ziplly that was a termination notification for franchise services in Wood Village, Oregon. However, the Franchise Agreement does not allow Ziplly to terminate in this way. This process was vetted with BBK, MHCRC Legal Counsel. Dyer has been





Mt. Hood Cable Regulatory Commission

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

in contact with Zply on this issue. Chair DeGraw shares appreciation for Laura providing this update.

- I-Net End Fund Digital Equity Initiative – Rebecca Gibbons gave an update on the successful Device Give-Away event “Waitlist-Zero” on Sunday, September 29th at 2:00 pm, at PCC Cascade Campus, and expressed appreciation for Vice Chair Harden who attended this very successful event and where he gave moving comments on the role and value of the Commission. Vice Chair Harden appreciates the Commission to speak on its behalf, a truly transformative day. Vice Chair Harden highlights that Comcast donated \$5,000 to FreeGeek after learning of their building fire.
- **New Business; Commissioner Open Comment** – Vice Chair Harden requests another public meeting in November to discuss the contract in Executive Session and open the agenda for public comment on the Comcast Franchise Renewal. Chair DeGraw has authority to call a special meeting, and all Commissioners agree to have a Special meeting in November.

Committee Reports

- Finance Committee – none.
 - Equity Committee – none.
 - Policy Committee – Committee will meet on October 28th.
 - City of Portland Charter Reform Liaison – none.
 - Open Signal Board Appointee – none.
 - MetroEast Board Appointee – none.
- Public Comment (non-agenda items): none.

Next MHCRC Meetings:

- October 29th – Peer Learning event – The Laurelhurst Club 8:00 am – 12:00 pm
- November – TBD
- MHCRC Strategic Planning Work Session - Tuesday, December 3, 2024 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm
Location MetroEast/Hybrid
- Mini Retreat date - Tuesday, December 17th from 4:30 pm – 8:30 pm
- December 16, 2024 – MetroEast/Hybrid
- January 27, 2025 – Open Signal/Hybrid
- March 17, 2025 - MetroEast/Hybrid
- May 19, 2025 - Open Signal/Hybrid
- June 16, 2025 - MetroEast/Hybrid

Adjourned: 9:51 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen Lefebvre



[REDACTED]

From: Josie Blanke <jjb9806@nyu.edu>
Sent: Sunday, October 20, 2024 9:09 PM
To: info@mhcrc.org
Subject: Metro-east community media funding

To whom it may concern,

My name is Josie Blanke and I am a freshman across the country studying at New York University. Since a young age I have loved film and media and have wanted to be able to creatively contribute in the film industry, but lacked the resources to do so. My high school did not offer any film classes which made me feel like I was being left behind and could never catch up to other people pursuing the same career path. After hearing of Metro-East Community Media, my mom and I signed up to take classes about using cameras and other media technology and at one point checked out cameras to practice taking outside footage. The teachers were kind, patient and respectful and I felt comfortable making mistakes to learn skills. My classmates were from all different walks of life, wanting to gain camera skills to pursue different passions and further causes important to them. Since taking these classes, my passion and interest in film has increased and I am now taking a film class at NYU with my one elective class, and hope to transfer into the film school soon. Metro-East Community Media and Open-Signal provide people in the community with access to technological resources and classes to foster inspiration and creativity, and cutting their funding would negatively affect creative people in the area who need such an outlet and supportive space.

Thank you,
Josie Blanke

[REDACTED]

From: Monica Card <77mcc15@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 19, 2024 4:08 PM
To: info@mhcrc.org
Subject: Proposed Renewed Cable Franchises with Comcast for a 10 Year Term

- Do the proposed consumer protection and customer service provisions adequately protect consumers in a competitive marketplace for cable television services?

In my experience the customer service options are very poor.

It is frustrating when the customer rep is based in another country. Their English is usually difficult to comprehend and they are apparently limited to what ever scripts are provided to them.

No option to speak with a local technician.

It is very difficult to have a tech come on site - the push is always to diagnose and correct remotely. Which is often not helpful when the problem ultimately requires someone on site.

Chat bots are limited to their generic AI scripts with no option to transfer to a real person

There is no opportunity for an after service customer satisfaction survey. There should be surveys with the results being made public.

I have had to file multiple times with Mt. Hood Cable Regulatory Commission (MHCRC) in order to resolve problems over the span of 3 years with Comcast.

Portland needs to have more cable companies in competition with each other in all sectors of the city. Perhaps the leases should be for shorter spans of time.

Thank you for the opportunity for public input.

Monica Card
503-231-5353

From: Ivana Horvat <ivana@metroeast.org>
Sent: Monday, October 21, 2024 2:57 PM
To: info@mhcrc.org
Subject: PEG Testimony

To whom it may concern,

My name is Ivana Horvat and I am a documentary filmmaker. I originally came to this country as a refugee from Bosnia & Herzegovina and have dedicated my life to producing stories that create empathy towards immigrants and refugees and people from different cultures in general. Since my parents had to start their lives over after resettling here, I grew up modestly. When I started my career in video, I found myself significantly restricted compared to my colleagues who had capital to spend on camera gear, education etc. Discovering community media was a godsend. Not only was I able to gain access to gear that helped me advance in my craft, but I gained a valuable community and education. I have seen MetroEast Community Media *matter* in the community. It matters in ways I had no idea that it could. As an employee of MetroEast I now teach classes to immigrant women from Nepal and Myanmar. I have seen these classes help women gain confidence and a sense of agency for the first time in their lives. In other news, for the first time in their lives they are getting an opportunity to develop themselves, and they chose to do so through MetroEast classes. I bring this up as an example of the countless unexpected yet highly impactful ways that community media can affect the community.

I request that you extend the opportunity for public comment by at least two weeks. And move your vote on a proposed franchise to your December meeting. The proposed reduction in the PEG Fee funding is especially concerning at a time when funding is already falling.

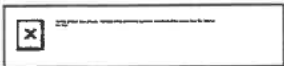
Sincerely,

--

Ivana Horvat

She, Her, Hers

Digital Media Producer



Donate

(971) 277-6695

metroeast.org

829 NE 8th Street, Gresham OR 97030

From: Margaret Noel <margaret.w.noel@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 21, 2024 2:40 PM
To: Info@mhcrc.org
Subject: Comments on MHCRC draft franchise agreement with Comcast
Attachments: Comments on MetroEast Community Media and MHCRC Franchise Agreement with Comcast.docx

Dear Members of the MT. Hood Cable Regulatory Commission,

Please see below and attached my comments about the proposed franchise agreement to be discussed tonight.

Thank you.

Comments on MetroEast Community Media and MHCRC Franchise Agreement with Comcast

My name is ~~Margaret Noel~~. I live in Portland, Oregon

I am writing to support the excellent work and the services provided to Multnomah County and the City of Portland by MetroEast Community Media. As a user and supporter of the resources MetroEast provides, I also request more time to review and understand the impacts of the proposed franchise agreement on the services that I and other county residents use and value. Taking a vote on the franchise this evening seems far too rushed.

I have tried to read through the very long final draft franchise agreement of October 15, 2024. Unfortunately, the announcement of this October 21 meeting only a week ago allowed very little time for Multnomah County residents to understand what this agreement will mean for us.

For more than twelve years, I have observed and benefited from the outstanding services that MetroEast Community Media provides. MetroEast is committed to informing the people of Multnomah County about our local governments and elections; they also provide opportunities for residents to communicate via cable television and learn about video production. When I have visited their studios and watched their programs, I have been impressed by the quality of their work.

MetroEast records and posts on YouTube the educational programming that the League of Women Voters of Portland creates. It also cablecasts meetings of the County Commission and East County governments. These programs provide information about our elected officials, the candidates running for office in our county, and important issues affecting Multnomah County. The final videos are well presented and clear. Along with thousands of other voters, I watch these videos to decide how to vote and also to learn more about county issues and possible solutions. A few years ago, MetroEast also helped me learn about how to record and edit videos. I know they offer educational workshops and classes to many community members, including students.

All of these services are offered to the people of Multnomah County for affordable prices. If the new franchise agreement will substantially increase these prices, we deserve to know and to be able to ask for revisions to the agreement to make these important services as affordable as possible.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Margaret Noel
2941 NW Quimby St.
Portland, OR 97210

From: Rebecca Loprinzi <loprinizitwo@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 18, 2024 12:48 AM
To: info@mhcrc.org; MetroEast Community Media
Subject: MetriEast Funding

To Whom it May Concern.

Metro East have been very helpful for over 30 years to Rita's Place and recipients served. Through Metro East we have been able to outreach to donors; as well families in need. The women children have healed and become empowered it is truly a blessing.

Rita's Place has received countless gifts for families during the holiday via Metro East, book donation for our prison education project to help stop recidivism, and the community Education resource trainings have help children and adults at Rita's Place learn skills which are being used to gain meaningful employment. Metro East Media has touch many disadvantaged children and families empowering them to learn to haunt dysfunctional behavior to become productive citizens.

Metro East is a treasure that has empowered the community from Mt. Hood area to Beaverton and throughout the metropolitan vicinity. Please continue to give and increase funding in sponsoring Metro East Media.

Rita's Place
Rebecca R Loprinzi
360.310.6778

From: Jon N <northwestnystrom@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 21, 2024 12:47 PM
To: info@mhcrc.org
Subject: Continue PEG fee funding / extend timeline for public comment

Hello,

I'm writing to urge an extension of public comment with regard to the question of funding for the PEG (Public-Educational-Governmental) fee.

Personally, I find the work done by MetroEast Community Media to be very helpful for me, civically. I utilize their League of Women Voters 'Video Voters Guide' every election year, and find the work the League does with MetroEast to provide balanced, unbiased content, which is extremely important for our Democratic Republic, which only works when there is an informed populace.

I request that you extend the opportunity for public comment by at least two weeks, and move your vote on a proposed franchise to your December meeting. The proposed reduction in the PEG Fee funding is especially concerning at a time when funding is already falling.

Sincerely,
Jon D. Nystrom, SE Portland resident



League of Women Voters of Portland

PO Box 3491, Portland, Oregon 97208-3491

503-228-1675 • info@lwvpdx.org • lwvpdx.org

Date: October 21, 2024
To: Mount Hood Cable Regulatory Commission, Julie DeGraw, chair
From: League of Women Voters of Portland
Carolyn Buppert, president
Re: Comcast Agreement with MHCRC

Our organization frequently uses MetroEast Community Media for production of our voter education videos. These videos benefit the community by giving Portlanders the information they need to cast informed ballots. For example, we produced and posted 99 videos of candidates running in the November 5 election. And, we produced community education webinars in September and October on the changes coming to Portland's government.

MetroEast provides their services at what LWVPDX believes is a reasonable cost. We respectfully request that the Commission delay further consideration, and a possible vote, on this ten-year contract, to its next regularly-scheduled meeting, to allow further investigation of these possible ramifications.

League of Women Voters of Portland:

To promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government.



TAKE CONTROL OF THE MEDIA

To the Mt. Hood Cable Regulatory Commission:

I am writing to express concern with the franchise agreement renewal presented in agenda item R1 and the surrounding public process.

I am a resident of East Portland and a member of the Board of Directors for MetroEast Community Media, the nonprofit community media center serving East Multnomah County. I experienced MetroEast's local impact in technology education firsthand in 2017-2019 while I was building digital equity programs at the nonprofit Free Geek.

How our community consumes and creates media is changing, at every level, from the transmission medium to the end-user device to individuals' personal habits. Cable subscriptions are declining and consequently, so are franchise fee revenues. This Commission approaches an existential inflection point. However, these circumstances do not negate your current duty to represent our community's interests in the franchising process as our cable authority. I offer the following concerns:

- **Public process:** The window for input from those impacted by the proposed agreement presented today is too small for meaningful discussion. To that end, please consider extending the public comment period by at least two weeks. Table the resolution to the next commission meeting.
- **PEG fee:** Community media centers are a unique and valuable local resource. Reducing this rate from 3 to 2.5% will negatively impact MetroEast's ability to deliver on its mission over the life of the franchise agreement. It's unclear how this decrease provides a public benefit.
- **PEG access:** It appears that the proposed agreement will shift the burden of cost for certain PEG services from Comcast to the local jurisdictions and/or our local access centers. This change would further strain the limited resources of MetroEast in empowering the community to create and distribute high-quality media.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment.

Respectfully,
Sara Ali
Board Director, MetroEast Community Media

From: Alice Rotsztain <alice@trashforpeace.org>

Sent: Monday, October 21, 2024 5:09:45 PM

To: info@mhcrc.org <info@mhcrc.org>

Subject: Testimony

Good evening Chair DeGraw and Commissioners.

My name is Alice Rotsztain and I am a resident of the Woodlawn neighborhood. Members of my household have been involved with Open Signal since 2013. When my husband and I first moved here from Los Angeles, as a media artist new to Portland, he got his first opportunities to teach workshops and meet other creators at Open Signal. Open Signal programs were instrumental in him building his new network, leading to other opportunities in Portland.

I also work at a local non-profit, Trash for Peace, and our programs service community members who live in affordable housing throughout the greater Metro area; we work with over 600 youth and families, of which greater than 60% identify as BIPoC.

Since 2023, Open Signal has partnered with our nonprofit on a digital literacy project, funded by the MHCRC. Open Signal provided inclusive and culturally-specific trainings for our cohort of Media Advocates, holding workshops in both English and Spanish, taught by a Latina instructor who is also a graduate of their creators programs. Open Signal also donated gently used laptops that allowed for us to provide our Media Advocates with hardware to be able to support their skills building at home and not only access technology at our on-site lab.

All of this support has been absolutely instrumental in building the skills and capacity of our community members. Without this support and more importantly, the funding that makes all this great work possible, our community members would not have the resources, access, or educational opportunities to learn these vital 21st Century skills. I have seen the impact this has made for their confidence and their skills over the last year and it's been truly inspiring. We have folks who began, never having used computers (only ever owning smart phones) and, with our education partners, such as Open Signal, they have learned how to operate cameras and lighting, plan an interview working with others, and how to edit a video.

Most importantly, they have learned that media and technology is something that they can engage with as creators and that it can empower their voices and share their visions. Organizations like Open Signal provide this kind of access to the community—in inclusive, accessible and supportive ways.

Please use your authority to champion and support organizations, such as Open Signal, who uplift and amplify community voices that otherwise have little access and representation. Please consider advocating more than 2.5% for PEG fees so that community media centers and the communities they support can thrive.

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Alice Rotsztain ([hear my name](#))

(she, her, hers)

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