



Mt. Hood Cable Regulatory Commission

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

MT. HOOD CABLE REGULATORY COMMISSION

Hybrid – MHCC– Gresham, OR

December 11, 2023 Retreat Minutes - **APPROVED**

SUMMARY MINUTES

Call to Order: 5:10 PM

Commissioners Present: Julia DeGraw(Chair), Scott Harden (Vice Chair – virtual), Leslie Goodlow (virtual), Carol Studenmund (virtual), Norm Thomas, Richard Roche, Cherri Wagner, and Jeff Dennerline

Staff Present: Rebecca Gibbons, Andrew Speer, Rana DeBey, Kevin Block, Eric Engstrom, and Kathleen Lefebvre

Retreat Goals

1. Provide an opportunity for Commissioners and staff to get to know each other and strengthen working relationships.
2. Refresh on the Commission’s workplan for the year – a roadmap of key milestones, priorities, and resources – with a deeper dive into the Community Grants program work and the current and anticipated policy landscape.

Commission’s Workplan Review

Rebecca Gibbons led the Commission through a review of the Commission’s 2023-2024 Workplan.

2023 -2024 GOALS:

- Goal I: Advocate for continued local authority regarding cable franchises and use of the public rights of way by communication providers. Refresh on the Commission's IGA and Staff Services Agreement
- Goal II: Effectively administer cable services franchise agreements to serve member jurisdictions and their residents. Reach agreement on a strategic planning process to explore future direction and regulatory authority of the Commission
- Goal III: Focus the community grants program on key impacts for addressing needs and equity issues identified by the community/stakeholders to guide the financial investment of capital funds in the community
- Goal IV: Ensure access to and use of current and new services available through the cable system technology by citizens, local governments, and community institutions.
- Goal V: Lead Commission operations efficiently and effectively

Community Grants

Following the Work Plan Review, Rana DeBey opened a discussion with Commissioners seeking their feedback for a programmatic name change and a revised calendar for the competitive





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grant cycle application and review process. Commissioners were open to a programmatic name change and discussed possibilities with staff. Commissioners also agreed that it may serve both MHCRC and grantees better to have a bi-annual grant application process. Commissioners shared ideas and staff will continue to work through updates with community stakeholders and the Equity Committee members and bring updated plan proposals for future funding cycles to the Commission.

Rana DeBey also led a discussion on PEG Funding Model and the impact of a reduced fund balance.

Policy Landscape Discussion

Kevin Block briefly presented on legislative items expected over the coming year and staff's advocacy efforts. Specifically, Block gave an update on HR-3557, noting optimism that the bill might not move forward. Block said that in November an FCC proposal was announced to eliminate junk fees and will be voted on in December. This proposal would eliminate early contract termination fees, and require credits applied to consumers. Block said in November the FCC adopts final rules to prevent digital discrimination.

Adjourn to enter into Executive Session: 7:15 pm-8:25 pm

The MHCRC entered into executive session to consult with the Commission's legal counsel regarding the MHCRC's legal rights and duties regarding franchise renewal, as provided under ORS 192.660(2)(f).

Reconvene: 8:26 pm

Adjourn: 8:30pm

Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen Lefebvre

