



MT. HOOD CABLE REGULATORY COMMISSION  
MetroEast Community Media, Studio A  
March 20, 2017 Meeting Minutes -- **APPROVED**

### **SUMMARY MINUTES**

MINUTES AS APPROVED AT THE MAY 22, 2017 MHCRC MEETING

Call to Order: 6:32pm

- Roll Call

Commissioners present: Carol Studenmund (Chair); Rich Goheen; Leif Hansen; Mike Bennett

Commissioners absent: Norm Thomas (Vice Chair); Sue Dicile; Scott Harden

Staff: Ann Goldenberg, Staff Director; Julie Omelchuck, Program Manager; Ben Walters, Legal Counsel; Tyler Dice, Assistant Program Specialist.

- Agenda Review: Studenmund reminded Commissioners that she will convene an executive session prior to adjourning the regular meeting, and that the MHCRC meeting packet contained a notice regarding the executive session.
- Recognition of John Branam's Service on the Commission: Studenmund stated that John Branam would attend the May MHCRC meeting, and Commission would provide recognition at that time.
- Disclosures: Commissioner Hansen stated that he and Marc Farrar, Comcast, had a telephone conversation regarding Hansen's position on the MHCRC related to his position with his current employer.
- Public Comment:
- CONSENT AGENDA

- C1. January 23, 2017 Meeting Minutes
- C2. February 16, 2017 Special Meeting Minutes
- C3. Annual Commission Retreat Goals

**MOTION:** Goheen moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Bennett seconded.

**VOTE:** 4-0 Passed

- REGULAR AGENDA

\*R1. FY 17-18 MHCRC Proposed Fund Budget

Goheen said that the MHCRC Finance Committee met February 27, 2017 and discussed the budget presented in the meeting packet. The Committee recommends that the Commission adopt the proposed FY 17-18 MHCRC Fund Budget and forward it to the Jurisdictions for approval. Goheen said the budget included detail and that the Finance Committee believed the budget was fiscally responsible.

Omelchuck reviewed the Jurisdictional approval processes. She noted that the FY17-18 budget included funds for a future focus ascertainment process.

Justen Harn, Open Signal (formerly PCM), presented a brief overview of Open Signal's FY17-18 budget. Harn stated that the budget is very similar to last year's budget. In response to Studenmund's question regarding a decrease in revenue generated from the Hollywood theatre and the effect this loss of revenue will have on Open Signal, Harn stated Open Signal will be reducing certain expenses, operating more efficiently, and utilizing forecasted revenue that will support existing programs. In response to Hansen's question regarding clarifying Open Signal increase in earned income, Harn stated Open Signal will be starting a membership program to increase earned revenue.

Marty Jones, MetroEast, presented a brief overview of MetroEast's FY17-18 budget. In response to Goheen's question regarding MetroEast's Rockwood pop-up, Marty stated that the partners included Gresham Redevelopment and Refugees Immigrants Hospitality Outreach, the N-ten Digital Fellows, FreeGeek and Multnomah County Library. In response to the Bennett's question regarding insurance coverage, Marty stated that staff researched this and concluded that MetroEast has adequate insurance coverage.

Hansen requested that future Open Signal and MetroEast budgets include a column for percent variance from prior fiscal year.

**MOTION:** Bennett moved to adopt the FY 2017-18 MHCRC Fund Budget as presented and forward it to the member Jurisdictions with a recommendation for approval. Hansen seconded.  
**VOTE:** 4-0 Passed

**\*R2. One-Year Extension of MetroEast Community Media Grant Agreement**

Omelchuck stated that staff recommends that the Commission extend the MetroEast Community Media grant agreement for one-year and forward a recommendation to Portland City Council for a one-year extension of Open Signal (PCM) grant agreement. Both grant agreements expire June 30, 2017. She referred to the staff included in the meeting packet. Omelchuck stated that the extension recommendation is due to: many changes in MHCRC staff, and the two new executive directors at the media centers; the uncertain workload related to the lawsuit; and the need to ensure that community needs are discussed and addressed in the renewal grant agreements.

In response to Hansen's question, Omelchuck stated that each media center's Board is required to approve the grant extensions as well.

**MOTION:** Hansen moved to amend The Commissions grant agreement with MetroEast Community Media to extend the agreement term by one year to June 30, 2018. Goheen seconded.

**VOTE:** 4-0 passed

\*R3. Recommendation to Portland Council for One-Year Extension of Open Signal (PCM) Grant Agreement

**MOTION:** Hansen moved to forward to the Portland City Council a recommendation to extend by one-year Open Signal's grant agreement. Goheen seconded.

**VOTE:** 4-0 passed

R4. Cable Companies' "Annual" Activities Presentation

Marc Farrar, Comcast, discussed Comcast's products and services. Farrar stated that 2016 was year two of a complete overhaul of customer experience. Since then, Comcast's call center performance has continued to exceed FCC standards for customer service. Farrar stated that he is confident that the model will continue to show benefits. In an effort to improve customer experience, Comcast began using a function on its app that provides a "Tech ETA". This function provides a picture, name and an estimated time of arrival of the tech. Comcast is working towards expanding its Internet Essentials program; last year this product was made available to all those in HUD housing. Farrar stated that 2016 was the year of X1, which is a video operating system that is changing the way Comcast delivers video service. With this new operating system, subscribers can search Netflix, and YouTube content with their voice remote and X1 box. Comcast began offering 2Gig service for residential customers and now offers fiber to the home on a case-by-case basis. Farrar stated that Comcast Cares day was a huge success in 2016 and that this year's Comcast Cares day will be at Hartley Elementary on April 22, 2017. Comcast revised its streaming app allowing subscribers to enjoy video programming anywhere.

In response to Bennett's question, Farrar stated that the streaming app goes through the person's mobile provider, however can also stream video through a Wi-Fi hotspot.

Ridderbusch, CenturyLink, introduced herself and Eric Larson, a store manager from the Halsey Street store. Ridderbusch highlighted CenturyLink's backpack buddies' food drive from last year, a partnership with the Oregon Food Bank. Ridderbusch also discussed CenturyLink's involvement with Hearts and Hoops, a partnership with the Portland Trail Blazers, which collects food and books for the Read Big Program.

In response to Bennett's question, Larson stated that the high speed internet service (fiber to the home) roll out has been a smooth process. CenturyLink is providing high speed internet on a

case-by-case basis. When subscribers call for this service, CenturyLink checks on the site's eligibility fiber to the home.

Day, Reliance Connects, said Reliance Connects currently has 80 television subscribers in Corbett, OR. It offers 162 channels, with 35 movie channels and 83 HD channels as of December 31, 2016. Currently, Reliance Connects provides fiber connectivity to 75% of its customer base, with plans for providing fiber to 100% of their customer base, in order to continue adding HD channels and over the top services, and to provide voice remotes. In 2016, Reliance Connects hosted Corbett's 4<sup>th</sup> of July event, which was a huge success.

- Staff Activity Reports and Updates

FCC proceedings:

Goldenberg: Mobility filed a petition in December regarding deploying wireless devices on City owned property. The City of Portland is one of many that filed a response.

Federal legislative updates:

Goldenberg: Mobile now- very similar to the Mobility filing – we have drafted a response that Mayor Wheeler has submitted. Also filed a letter from Wheeler that encouraged broadband infrastructure.

2017 Oregon legislative session:

Right of Way preemption challenge. League of cities organized other cities and their Mayors and elected officials march 3 to present and argue not rolling back the clock. City of Portland did submit a written testimony. Bill is not likely to move forward. Gigabyte exemption. Two different Bills to look at repealing or cutting it back. This may pass.

Comcast Cure Plan:

Omelchuck is working with Comcast regarding the launch of the PEG CAN channel 11 in HD not being on its corresponding 300 level channel, and instead on channel 331. She said Comcast has been responsive in working through a way to address the issue.

TechSmart:

Omelchuck is working with Centennial School District and hopes to have a draft project plan for the Grant Committee to vet in May.

Other:

- Committee Reports

- Finance Committee: None.
- Grant Committee: None.
- PCM Board Appointee: Studenmund stated that Open Signal had a high quality presentation at the Portland City Council.

- MetroEast Board Appointee: None.
- New Business; Commissioner Open Comment: None.
- Franchisee Activity Report

Ridderbusch, CenturyLink, said that CenturyLink's Teachers in Tech Program awarded \$60,000 in Oregon: recipients will be announced in April. CenturyLink has a fourth retail store opening April 5, 2017.

- PEG Provider Activity Report

MetroEast co-hosted the Northwest regional conference for the Alliance for Community Media at Open Signal. Jones presented on the Rockwood DIY first class series. Jones stated that a second class series has begun, with plans for three more series.

In response to Studenmund's question, Jones stated that MetroEast is connecting those attending workshops with Comcast and CenturyLink for low cost internet options.

Open Signal: Harn stated that he attended the Community Leaders lunch last month. Open Signal recently received \$7,000 from the Regional Arts & Culture Council. Harn stated that Open Signal recently hosted an open house attended by just under 1,000 guests.

- Public Comment: None.

7:51 p.m. Commission took brief recess

- Executive Session:

Studenmund convened Executive Session at 7:58pm pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(h), which allows the Commission to meet in executive session to consult with the Commission's legal counsel regarding the Commission's legal rights and duties in regard to currently pending litigation.

Representatives of the news media and designated staff were allowed to attend the executive session. All other members of the audience were asked to leave the room. Representatives of the news media were specifically directed not to report on or otherwise disclose any of the deliberations or anything said about these subjects during the executive session, except to state the general subject of the session as previously announced. No members of the news media were in attendance. No decisions were made in executive session.

Walters discussed the Ranck complaint court dates and motion to dismiss. Walters stated that he does not anticipate having much to report to the Commission in the next couple months.

Studenmund adjourned the Executive Session at 8:14 p.m. and welcomed the audience back into the meeting room.

Studenmund reconvened the Regular meeting at 8:15 p.m.

- Adjourn: 8:16 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Tyler N. Dice  
Assistant Program Specialist