



MT. HOOD CABLE REGULATORY COMMISSION  
Remote Meeting via phone or computer, Portland OR  
June 15, 2020 Meeting Minutes -- APPROVED

## SUMMARY MINUTES

Call to Order: 6:30 pm

- Roll Call

Commissioners present: Chair Hansen, Commissioner Studenmund, Commissioner Dennerline, Commissioner Thomas, Commissioner McIntire, Commissioner Harden.

Commissioners absent: Commissioner Murphy, Commissioner Roche.

Staff: Julie Omelchuck, Program Manager; Rebecca Gibbons, Program Coordinator; Cinthia Diaz Calvo, Administrative Specialist; Rana DeBey, Grants Analyst; Elisabeth Perez Interim Director.

- Agenda Review:
- Disclosures: None.
- Public Comment:

Thomas appreciated Omelchuck's work and support.

Harden appreciated all Omelchuck's accomplishments, especially her support and guidance. Dennerline feels cheated of all the things he won't learn since Omelchuck will not be around. He thanks her for her support.

McIntire appreciates Omelchuck's institutional knowledge.

Studenmund appreciates Omelchuck's impact in the community and work done through the TechSmart Grants.

Marybeth for making a difference in so many people's life. She has learned so much.

Omelchuck committed to a class on race in which she learned about white privilege and systemic racism - his impacted and lead her work. Omelchuck didn't stop there, she became a member and leader in Grant Making association. Omelchuck likes to have fun. She thanks her for her years of service and dedication.

Alexander met Omelchuck in 1989 when the Cable office only had 2 employees. Appreciates her service.

Hansen expressed gratitude towards Omelchuck's work and influence, which he describes as persistence, passion and competence.

Gibbons expressed admiration and thanks Omelchuck for her inspiration and for being a mentor to her for 20 years.

Perez appreciates Omelchuck's work and feels lucky to be able to continue to work with her for at least a little longer.

Thomas mentioned that Omelchuck was the first person he ever met. Gibbons played a great role with Omelchuck.

Studenmund mentioned that all commissioners have pitched in to give her a dinner certificate.

- **CONSENT AGENDA**

C1. May 18, 2020 Meeting Minutes

**MOTION:** Thomas moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Studenmund seconded.

**VOTE:** 6-0

**REGULAR AGENDA**

DeBey presented the following applications which were submitted in December. At January MHCRC meeting the commission selected 13 of those reapplicants to work with staff on a full application. Staff has worked with applicants to include additional information and suggested revisions to add measurable outcomes and evaluations surrounding beneficiaries. Open Signal withdrew their application due to staff capacity. MetroEast initially submitted two applications but only one of them was withdrawn due to Reynolds School challenges with capacity as a result of COVID-19. NW had a late start day and asked for an extension due to low capacity also. Overall it was a very collaborative process. DeBey noted OCT staff engaged in COVID-19 considerations around managing pandemic impacts and current grants.

R1. Community Technology Grant: MetroEast Community Media

**MOTION:** Thomas moved to approve the Community Technology grant for MetroEast for \$200,850.00. Harden seconded.

**DISCUSSION:** McIntire asked why the round numbers have changed for ChichTech and Luke-Dorf, Inc. DeBey said the request increase by an additional \$61,000 for equipment in the library so they don't use other funds. They were granted an additional 25,000 for the purchase of a new vehicle. McIntire mentioned that it remains a great idea for the word to get out into the community.

**VOTE:** 6-0

R2. Community Technology Grant: ChickTech

**MOTION:** Thomas moved to approve the Community Technology grant for ChickTech for \$22,349.91. Studenmund seconded.

**VOTE:** 6-0

R3. Community Technology Grant: Luke-Dorf, Inc

**MOTION:** Thomas moved to approve the Community Technology grant for Luke-Dorf, Inc for \$31,696.40. Dennerline seconded.

**VOTE:** 6-0

R4. Community Technology Grant: Outside the Frame

**MOTION:** Thomas moved to approve the Community Technology grant for Outside the Frame for \$32,250.00. Studenmund seconded.

**VOTE:** 6-0

R5. Community Technology Grant: Portland Community College

**MOTION:** Thomas moved to approve the Community Technology grant for Portland Community College for \$54,823.00. Harden seconded.

**VOTE:** 6-0

R6. Community Technology Grant: Resolutions Northwest

**MOTION:** Thomas moved to approve the Community Technology grant for Resolutions Northwest for \$21,453.00. Harden seconded.

**VOTE:** 6-0

R7. Community Technology Grant: Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods

**MOTION:** Thomas moved to approve the Community Technology grant for Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods for \$50,351.00. Studenmund seconded.

**VOTE:** 6-0

R8. Community Technology Grant: Slavic Community Center of NW

**MOTION:** Thomas moved to approve the Community Technology grant for Slavic Community Center of NW for \$38,205.00. Harden seconded.

**DISCUSSION:** Studenmund followed up about the subtitles that she requested be included. DeBey confirmed they did include the subtitles. Harden said the program has already made an impact in the Fairview and Wood Village has exceeded the 2010 census participation and they played a role in getting people to take the census. McIntire asked why the amount was less. Rana DeBey mentioned that in their calculations they confirmed it was less.

**VOTE:** 6-0

R9. Community Technology Grant: The North Northeast Business Association

**MOTION:** Thomas moved to approve the Community Technology grant for The North Northeast Business Association for \$56,200.00. Harden seconded.

**VOTE:** 6-0

R10. Community Technology Grant: Pacific Resource & Evaluation (PRE)

Studenmund asked about the status report, to which Omelchuck said that those were data points that come in and are submitted by the districts every 6 months.

**MOTION:** Harden moved to approve a contract amendment with Pacific Research & Evaluation to extend the contract through June 30, 2023 and increase the contract amount by \$283,450 to perform the TechSmart evaluation for three additional fiscal years. Studenmund seconded.

**VOTE:** 6-0

#### R11. Election of MHCRC Chair and Vice Chair

Hansen explains that given the time he has served as Chair; it is time after 10 years to move on. He emphasized Studenmund's prior years of experience, interest and passion for the work. Hansen also highlights Harden's experience and analytical approach. Harden appreciates Hansen's even keel and candor. Thomas also appreciates Hansen's leadership and years of service.

**MOTION:** Hansen nominates Studenmund as the new Chair and Harden as vice Chair. Thomas seconded.

**DISCUSSION:** Dennerline, McIntire and Studenmund also agree with Hansen's nomination. Omelchuck appreciates Hansen's years of leadership, tenacity, and level headedness.

**VOTE:** 6-0

#### Staff Activity Reports and Updates

- **Public Policy/Legislative/FCC:** Perez mentioned that the FCC adopted a declaratory ruling and Notice of Proposed Rulemaking; this is about wireless setting guidelines. Promoting Broadcast Internet Innovation through ATSC 3.0; this means it removes regulations that would hinder new development uses of broadband spectrum.
- **Cares Act Funding:** Perez said there is funding coming to the PUC about \$3.5 million to assist telephone and internet assistance. There are 20 million to broadband deployment. Most will not be coming to our county because 10 million is already allocated to a phase two of broadband deployment or continuation of a program.
- **Comcast Franchise Renewal:** Perez mentioned that staff has a timeline and has started to prepare for negotiations and hired the consultant. Informal negotiations will begin in November, and this will continue through July on 2021. Oct-Dec 2021 will be the approval process, if approval does not happen, then an extension will be established. Informal negotiations is more of a discussion. With formal proceedings there is documentation review and legal parties join the conversations. McIntire asks if this timeline is only for Comcast, to which Elisabeth confirms that it is. Frontier's franchise negotiation starts in the fall.
- **Community Needs Ascertainment:** Omelchuck said CBG report is moving along and is due to be completed at the end of June.
- **FY20-21 Jurisdiction Budget Approval:** Omelchuck said that staff had Wood Village approval and 4 additional meetings this week. The final meeting will take place 6/23 Troutdale.

- MHCRC Staff Support Transitions: Perez is working on an office reorganization and OCT will have Omelchuck's support on a part time basis. In the future Perez will be working with Carol on how great service looks like.

#### Committee Reports

- Finance Committee: None.
- Jurisdiction Needs Assessment Committee: None.
- Open Signal Board Appointee: None.
- MetroEast Board Appointee: Zoom meeting a couple of weeks ago and formed a governance committee.
- New Business; Commissioner Open Comment: Hansen shared the MHCRC's Black Lives Matter statement:

The Mt. Hood Cable Regulatory Commission (MHCRC) is a committed advocate and ally to those of us who have lived our lives in an environment of systemic oppression and racism. The murders of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and George Floyd were daylighted through the use of video, and like the film and images from the civil rights movement of the 1950's and 60's, they tell an undeniable story of white supremacy, discrimination and racially-motivated violence. The visual confirmation of these hateful actions endured by Black Americans became real to the world when they saw it with their own eyes.

In 2020, people have the ability to tell their own stories in their own words through the use of a smartphone, and those stories are undeniable. Violence toward black people has always been there, and the increased availability of devices to record these injustices not only demands that people confront these injustices but forces conversation and inspires action.

The MHCRC is committed to using our power to enable black, indigenous, other people of color and other marginalized voices to tell their own stories through our community technology grants and through financial support of Community Media centers serving all of Multnomah County. We embrace our responsibility to lift-up the voices of our community and make sure they are heard. #BlackLivesMatter

Commissioner Reappointments: Thomas said his reappointment is happening 6/23, Dennerline's reappointment is happening on 6/17.

- Franchisee Activity Report
  - Ziplly: They are evaluating their systems; they are making transition plan to improve their systems. This includes their phone answering system, which she acknowledges they need to be improved.
  - Comcast: None.
  - Century Link: None.

- PEG Provider Activity Report
  - Open Signal: none.
  - MetroEast Community Media: Tomi Douglas said that they have been focusing on meeting their communities needs where they are at right now. i.e. in person classes are now all online, increasing capacity on welcome to computers, and adding new curriculum in their online classes. They are in research mode and preparation for when it is time to re-open. She will be sharing MetroEast's reopening 3-phase plan next week with the MetroEast Board.
- Public Comment: None.
- Adjourn: 8:15 pm

Respectfully submitted by:  
Cinthia Diaz Calvo, Administrative Specialist