

Connecticut State-wide Video Advisory Council

February 28th, 2024

Via Zoom

Minutes

In Attendance: Alan Budkofsky, Stephen Fuest, Marco Iacoviello, Stephen Simonin, Elaine Buchardt, Greg Davis, Merja Lehtinen

Members Absent: Peaches Quinn, Stuart Strelzer, Temosticles Valdes

Providers: Esme.Lombard, Altice, Judy Geise, Frontier

1. Meeting called to order 7:01 pm by Chairwomen Merja Lehtinen

2. Minutes of February 28th, 2024- Moved by Alan B- Second by Elaine B- Motion Passed With Corrections- Elaine name Spelled incorrectly.

3. Treasurer Alan reported \$10,000 in Treasury Bond and \$43,720.72 in Bank America Expenses to be recorded- \$170.05 Zoom license for 1 year and Income of \$2,000 from Altice.

4) Providers Report- Judy Geise-Frontier- she reported customer service number now in bold on the bills in response to an issue brought up at the December meeting. Merja mentioned no complaints lately about Frontier lately.

Esme Lombard- Altice- All customer complaints have been addressed.

5) Steve F reported that the State report for 2023 was submitted to PURA

6) Old Business- Elaine discussed the Bill before the Technology committee for Funding Public Access. Discussion ensued. Discussion ensued about the councils Funds being used to help the group advocating for funding public access. The chair asked members opinions of funding the efforts. Each member gave their opinion. The council has no official request in writing for any funds to support the effort. Elaine mentioned it was the groups getting together (Access Group) have proper funding. Concern was brought up by public access stations and not the public. General public does not really know what is going on and how the public meetings are actually done. Public access needs to get better in educating the public of who they are and what they do. Steve F mentioned he believes public access would be changing and it would be streaming but funds are needed to do this. Steve S mentioned emergency broadcasting services and possibly funding public broadcasting for the public from Hartford. Discussion ensued about emergency broadcasting vs public access and getting funds. The PEG study docket was discussed. Merja mentioned perhaps we should do access to advertising in radio and newspapers to plug and discuss public access.

Merja suggested we do a public service announcement once a year to explain what we do and what public access is and how it helps the consumer.

The council decided to come up with a short few sentences advertisement as follows:

The State Wide Video Access Council represents statewide consumers for their access to Cable. Public Access TV is funded by a percentage of your cable bill. When subscribers are declining, they are losing their funding. Please contact your representatives to support public access funding.

Discussion ensued about how people are getting information now- via streaming etc.

7) Committee Reports- None

8) Public Comments

9) Adjournment- 7:58 pm

Respectfully Submitted

Stephen F. Fuest