



Board of Directors Regular Meeting

August 11th, 2021, at 6:00 pm

LCATV & via Zoom

63 Creek Farm Plaza, Suite 3, Colchester, Vermont 05446

Board of Directors in Attendance: Greg Drew (GD), Curt Taylor – remote (CT), Dirk Reith (DR), Ken Rocheleau (KR)

Staff in Attendance: Kevin Christopher (KC) and Michael Wright (MW)

1. Call to Order by Chair GD at 6:00 PM.

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda by KR, second by DR, passed unanimously.

3. Board of Directors reorganization

GD nominated DR for board president. DR nominated Jeff Hathaway for Treasurer.

Motion to approve the slate of two candidates by GD, passed unanimously.

DR then took over running of the meeting.

4. Board member and staff comments

No comments

5. Approve minutes of July 22nd, 2021

Motion to approve the minutes of 7/22/21 by GD, second by KR, passed unanimously.

6. Executive director's report

KC reported that LCATV has finished the second week of camps with one being back in the studio. A camp in Milton is coming up.

He added that he has contacted the Colchester School District regarding the idea of funding an ethernet connection for sporting events. He has not heard back yet. He has also contacted Milton regarding same.

KC mentioned that he would like a formal motion in order to give MR the bonus the board approved during the recent retreat.

Motion by KR to implement the bonus for MW approved during the retreat. Second by GD. Approved unanimously.

7. Treasurer's Report

DR remarked that the documents provided to the board did not include a very recent check from ComCast. With those number added to LCATV's revenues he feels we are in good stead. KC added that, in fact, revenues are up somewhat over last year at this time.

DR asked about the Advertising, Education and Development line item showing no funds spent. KC replied that those funds are usually used for conferences and there have not been any due to the pandemic. In advertising is down because local newspapers are no longer putting out a printed edition. This is a \$6,000 line item, some of which will be spent by the end of the fiscal year.

8. Old Business

a. FCC and Legislative Status Update

KC stated that there has been nothing new to report on these matters.

b. Field Production Restructure

KC has had meetings with staff to discuss potential changes. He will be reporting the results of those meetings.

c. Board of Directors recruitment

GD has been in touch with Dick Pecor (DP) regarding his recent resignation. GD's feelings were that the most recent meeting brought to a head some of DP's frustrations with progress on some issues. DP has several "irons in the fire" and DP felt his efforts would be better spent elsewhere. GD stated that he had a good discussion with DP.

With regard to board member recruitment, DR said he would follow some possible leads to help identify individuals who may be interested in serving on the LCATV board. KC restated that a board member need only be one who meets LCATV membership requirements which included anyone that works or attends school within LCATV's service area. Jeff Hathaway (not in attendance) has also remarked that he would look for candidates. KC is working with staff to make LCATV's board and staffing needs known to the public.

GD asked that board members think about why they are members and what skills they provide as a starting point for seeking new members. He is also concerned about the balance of cable channels vs. online access and would like to take that into account during any document review and any discussion of future trends and needs. DR asked about a "goals statement." KC stated that though LCATV certainly has goals there is no concise statement of same. The feeling was that this might help with recruitment. KR remarked that it would be good to see how other Access organizations address this issue. KC will look into providing examples from other organizations. He also pointed out that the LCATV annual report touches on goals and objectives.

9. New Business

a. LCATV Document Review

GD stated that he is interested in updating the documentation provided members upon selection as board member. In particular he would like to see a review of the Rule 8 documentation.

There was considerable discussion about how the amount LCATV receives from ComCast is determined and what those funds can be used for. KC explained that the amounts LCATV receives for Operating and Capital costs are negotiated with ComCast by each access organizations. The negotiation is over what percent of a subscriber's bill goes to that organization. Federally law specifies a 5% cap for operating expenses. There is no such cap on Capital Expenses.

KC also explained that, by law, LCATV must use the funds received from the cable provider for “Cable related community needs.” The definition of “community needs” has a broad interpretation.

KC asked that board member look over the documentation he has (and will) provide and get back to him with any questions before the next meeting.

10. Executive Session

No needed

11. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by GD at 6:54 PM, second by KR, passed unanimously

Respectfully submitted on September 20th, 2021 (DRAFT) by Curt Taylor – Secretary

Approved with minor revision on September 29th, 2021