

FairTV

Fairfield Education and Government Public Access Television

Minutes of December 10, 2012 FairTV Committee

Sullivan Independence Hall, Lower Level Conference Room

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Jim Kennelly at 7:31 pm. In attendance were members Thomas Flynn, Alexis Harrison and Pamela Jones and FairTV System Manager Gerry Speno.

After a discussion about how to proceed, Ms. Harrison nominated Mr. Kennelly to serve as chairperson. Mr. Flynn seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations. Mr. Kennelly was elected, 3-0-1 with Ms. Jones abstaining. Mr. Kennelly nominated Ms. Harrison to serve as Vice Chairperson. Mr. Flynn seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations. Ms. Harrison was elected 3-0-1 with Ms. Jones abstaining.

After a discussion, it was decided to leave the position of Secretary open until the next regular meeting. This would allow any new member appointed to complete the five-member committee the opportunity to serve as an officer.

After a discussion of the time frame for the committee (as authorized by the BOS, July 1, 2013) and the members' schedules, the Committee voted to hold regular monthly meetings at 7:30 pm on the second Monday of each month through June 30th. The vote was 4-0 (Flynn, Harrison, Jones and Kennelly voting in the affirmative).

Additionally, the committee agreed but took no formal vote, that it would consider allowing members to attend electronically (call-in) for up to two of during its planned next six regular meetings to ensure business could be conducted in the

limited time frame of the committee's service. A vote on this matter, along with final approval of the 2013 regular meeting schedule was planned for the next regular meeting to be held January 14th.

To allow emergency call-in by members (The lower level conference room near FairTV's head end has no cell reception) and to increase space for the public, Mr. Flynn suggested that the Committee seek meeting space on the first floor of Sullivan Independence Hall. The committee took no formal vote on this matter, however it was the sense of the assembled members that this should be done and incorporated into the annual meeting schedule for 2013 to be formally approved on January 14th. Chairperson Kennelly promised to follow up regarding availability of this space going forward.

The committee received a written report from FairTV System Manager Gerry Speeno. He answered members' questions regarding system operations. Although all FairTV expenditures are recorded and authorized by the Town Department of Finance, He agreed to provide formal, monthly reports regarding system expenditures, which he said is generally comprised of outlays for labor to cover meetings and small expenses to maintain system operations and meeting coverage.

In the course of questioning, he noted the following:

- FairTV Education and FairTV Government would be available to AT&T Uverse customers beginning Thursday, December 13th.
- As part of the new relationship with AT&T Uverse, FairTV will have access to additional online delivery services through Discover Video.
- A new video producer may be needed by summer.

- The system continues to need a permanent home. It is now run out of the hallway in the Information Technology Department. Mr. Speno has identified office space in Old Town Hall he would like the Committee to help him encourage the administration to provide FairTV.

Under new business, Chairperson Kennelly asked for volunteers for a subcommittee for drafting of ordinance language to be submitted to the Representative Town Meeting for the creation of a permanent FairTV Commission that would have defined duties and powers spelled out in the Town Code of Fairfield. Ms. Harrison volunteered to chair this subcommittee. Mr. Kennelly volunteered to join the subcommittee. They agreed to return a draft for consideration by the full committee at the next meeting, which would be Monday January 14th, 2013.

The committee was provided with an update from Ms. Jones on the litigation launched by Soundview Community Media to de-fund town specific government and education access channels like those operated by FairTV. She serves as pro-bono council to the Cable Advisory Council of Area 2 (CAC2), which is coordinating the regional response to the suit. Ms. Jones noted that on her advice and counsel, the Town of Fairfield has entered the suit as an intervener in opposition to the suit.

Chairperson Kennelly asked for volunteers for a subcommittee focused on the FairTV Operational Committee's role in supporting the opposition to the lawsuit. Mr. Flynn said he would consider such a role should he become a member of the CAC2. This would allow him to follow the matter more effectively. (Ms. Jones is already a member, representing the Town of Fairfield.) Chairperson Kennelly said he would contact the Chair of the BOE to see if the BOE would be willing to appoint a representative to the CAC2 as they are entitled to do, and if they would consider Mr. Flynn.

Mr. Flynn raised concerns regarding the need for timely delivery of agendas to the Town Clerk's Office. Chairperson Kennelly asked if Mr. Flynn would coordinate each meeting's agenda with members at the end of each meeting and in a follow up email before then sending a final, formal agenda on to the Town Clerk. Mr. Flynn agreed to do this.

Members were provided with a written copy of the System Manager's Agreement crafted by the FairTV Operational Committee in July, 2012. That agreement will be reviewed by members over the next 30 days and put to a formal vote at the next meeting.

The committee discussed developing standards for non-meeting content and possibly creating a 501c3 that would be designated "FairTV" to act in perpetuity as the independent "entity" recognized by the town to provide government and education access television required under the rules of the CAC2 Grant funding process. (Currently the operational committee serves in this capacity.) This prompted a brief discussion, lead by Mr. Speno about fundraising for FairTV outside the CAC2 Grant and town budget process.

The committee took no formal action on any of these matters.

The meeting adjourned at 10:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Alexis P. Harrison

Vice Chair, Acting Secretary

FairTV Operational Committee