

FairTV
Fairfield Education and Government Public Access Television

Minutes of November 20 FairTV Committee
Sullivan Independence Hall, First Floor Conference Room (Draft for Comment)

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Jim Kennelly at 7:40 PM. In attendance were members Thomas Flynn and Mary Hogue. Gerry Speno, Systems Manager, was also in attendance.

The meeting minutes from the October 16 meeting were reviewed and accepted (Motion by Mary, second by Jim). Vote: 3-0.

The majority of the meeting discussion centered around acceptance or rejection of two programs already recorded for broadcasting on the FairTV Government channel.

The first program is an interview of the Fairfield Tree Warden. Of concern was the use of Jay Wolk, an elected RTM member, as the interviewer. Motion to Reject Program as hosted by Systems Manager Gerry Speno made by Jim, second by Mary. Vote: 2-1 AGAINST rejection (dissenting vote by Jim).

The second program is an interview of Assistant Fire Chief Chris Tracey re Fairfield Regional Training Center, an interview conducted by State Rep. Kim Fawcett. Of concern was an elected official being the producer of the program. Motion to Accept Program made by Tom, second by Jim. Vote: 2-1 FOR acceptance (dissenting vote by Jim).

Discussion then took place as to the go-forward appropriateness of elected officials taking part in programming either as producers or even in some lesser role e.g. interviewers. There was clear disagreement among the Committee members present as to that issue—but unanimous agreement that a clear Committee statement on the subject is required in the FairTV Commission document to be submitted to the RTM.

Public comment was accepted from public attendees Pam Jones and Jay Wolk on this subject. Both stated that they knew of no abuse by local officials in the past while acting as producers or interviewers. In addition, Pam talked about the perception of PURA of the lack of original programming content on FairTV (and other similar area entities) and the resultant decision by PURA not to consider providing additional funding from Cablevision until it saw an improvement in this area.

This subject (appropriateness of elected officials taking part in programming either as producers or even as some less role e.g. interviewers) will be the major topic for the December FairTV Committee meeting, with the resultant Committee viewpoint clearly expressed in the FairTV Commission document to be evaluated by the RTM.

Gerry Speno's Operating Report was accepted—Motion by Tom, second by Mary. Topics discussed as a result of Gerry's report included the possible need to buy a new server if our Mpeg2 vendor upgrades to Mpeg4. Don Leslie has been asked to put \$16K in his proposed 2014-2015 budget in case this happens.

A discussion took place regarding the best use of FairTV resources as influenced by Town meeting dates and chosen locations. To try to make requestors of FairTV coverage

for these meetings as aware as possible of these implications, Gerry will draft a letter for Committee approval which will then be sent to major requestors. Motion for letter draft made by Tom, second by Mary. Vote: 3-0.

The committee also approved up to a \$1600 expenditure, if needed, for a new monitor for the FairTV system. The amount is based on the cost of a Ikan Two VX71 monitor, or other monitor with equivalent features.

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 PM.