

FairTV – Monthly Meeting Agenda

Sullivan Independence Hall – September 24, 2015

Meeting Minutes

The FairTV meeting was called to order by Chairperson Harrison at 7:05 PM.

Commissioners in attendance: Harrison; Jameson; Minsky and Strelzer

Absent: Quinn

Members of the Audience: Bryce Perry, co-president of the League of Women Voters (LWV); Margaret Mary Fitzgerald, co-president of LWV; Pat Reilly of the LWV; and Joyce and Tom Flynn of the LWV.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM AUGUST MEETING

The chairperson moved to approve the minutes of the August meeting; Commissioner Minsky seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS INTRODUCTION & POTENTIAL FAIRTV PARTNERSHIP

Chairperson Harrison asked the LWV co-presidents to address the commission following a decision during last month's meeting for a partnership between FairTV and league to co-sponsor the upcoming municipal debates. The league wanted to clarification on the co-sponsorship, and what it entailed as they consider themselves a bi-partisan organization that has presented debates for many decades. The other option on the floor is for the league to cover the costs of the debate production. Co-President Perry provided an overview of the league's functions, and what it does to serve the community. She asked for more information on why FairTV was seeking a partnership since it's never been done before. Comm. Jameson expressed his respect for the organization, and what they do, the role they play to help educate voters, however, due to upcoming infrastructure issues and improvements that need to be addressed, FairTV has to begin implementing fees for coverage for requests from outside, non-governmental entities. He also said the other option is to have partnership with the debates, where the league wouldn't be charged any fees, and FairTV would play a role in it, and would cover the costs of the production. The partnership would include signage of FairTV at the debate, and inclusion in press and marketing materials. Co-president Perry said the league has enjoyed a long-standing relationship with FairTV, and has always given them credit for their work of covering the forums, and didn't see how the partnership would be any different. The LWV asked if they could have more time to consider the partnership, and other ideas which FairTV agreed with.

Comm. Jameson made a motion to swap the item #5, and update from the audit committee, and a report on CAC. Comm. Harrison supported the motion, seconded by Comm. Minsky.

Tom Flynn, who previously served on the FairTV ad hoc committee, asked to address the commission because he previously served on CAC.

REPORT ON CAC

Commissioner Jameson provided input on his meeting with Cable Advisory Council, Area 2 (CAC2) leaders, Ron Davis and Marlene Silverstein. Comm. Jameson reported that it was a very positive meeting, and that both Mr. Davis and Ms. Silverstein expressed enthusiasm about reestablishing a strong relationship with FairTV. In that vein, Mr. Tom Flynn, a member of the former FairTV Operational Committee addressed the commission. Mr. Flynn had served on the FairTV operational committee, and was also a member of CAC2 as a FairTV representative. He underscored the need to have a representative on CAC2 especially in a changing broadcast age where it is likely cable operators will be giving less money to the local governments to help subsidize local cable government access channels. The commission discussed appointing a member of the FairTV commission to CAC2 to fill the vacancy despite possible issues with FairTV's charter provision that was adopted by the RTM earlier this year. Chairman Harrison volunteered to take on that duty, and as chairman would contact the First Selectman on this.

AUDIT SUB-COMMITTEE

Commissioner Jameson provided an update on the audit sub-committee which is tasked with providing an in-depth look at FairTV's operations, audience engagement and equipment. The committee anticipated the audit would take about 60 days but Commissioner Jameson said he expects that it could take longer and may asked for an extension. Commissioner Minsky noted that they had invited the town's Comptroller to speak their committee, she believed it would be helpful to have the comptroller address the commission in it's entirety to provide data and financials.

Setting policy on coverage requests from the public and elected officials. Recommended motion: 'that the FairTV Commission appoint a sub-committee composed of three commissioners to draft policy that establishes procedures for coverage requests.'

Comm. Harrison said she receives a great deal of requests for coverage and slide submission to promote events in town. She said she believed some policy needs to be implemented so the public can uniformly makes requests, and the pertinent information is in the request. Comm. Jameson recommended that the policy portion of the audit committee be transferred to the recommended sub-committee, and recommended that new motion read: *that the FairTV Commission appoint a sub-committee composed of three commissioners to draft policy that establishes financials procedures for coverage requests based on work started by the operational audit committee. Comm. Harrison seconded it, and it was voted on unanimously*

That the FairTV Commission approve the slide to advertise the new Fairfield shoreline 12 mile bike route that is taking place on September 27th as requested by the Fairfield Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee.

Comm. Harrison said the Fairfield Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee had requested that we air a slide promoting the Fairfield shoreline 12 mile bike route. Comm. Harrison said the content of the slide was

fine but did not believe the logo of Zane's Cycle shop, co-sponsor of the ride, belonged on the slide when it aired on FairTV as the station doesn't promote commercial or private businesses. The motion was seconded by Comm. Jameson, and it was approved unanimously by the commission.

Public Comment:

There was none