

Cable Communications Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes for May 15, 2019

Meeting started at 7:00 pm

Members and county staff in attendance: Yen Chen, Dorshae Demby, Stephen Boliek, Liel Carmel, Muriel Hairston-Cooper and Bernadette Garrett

Agenda items discussed:

I. March 20, 2019 Meeting Minutes were approved

II. Cable Plan (Budget) Recap / Questions / Comments: Committee had a brief recap of the Budget overview provided by Gaye Barksdale & Donna Keating during our last committee meeting in March. Some of the members attended the county's budgetary meetings in person or via CCTV.

We appreciated the insight to the county budget and will continue to seek ways to be an advocate for county residents.

III. Update on upcoming Cable Contracts for Montgomery: After discussing county budget, members had questions regarding the 5% set aside mentioned in prior budgetary and cable contract discussions.

A. Committee inquired as to if the 5% is available for its intended use or move to a part of the general fund. Dorshae Demby will take a look at it and provide confirmation or any updates; we received his report that 0% has been set aside at this time

B. County Cable provided updates regarding the upcoming Verizon franchise agreement and cable contract renewal is still under review and expires November 2021. Committee can view cable agreements via <https://montgomerycountymd.gov/cable/regulation.html>

C. **Action Item:** Committee would like to craft a statement (for County Cable Staff to consider) to advocate for preserving the 5% supposedly set aside and ensure this is highlighted for County Council's awareness when they review the upcoming Verizon franchise agreement and future cable agreements. To help facilitate this, the committee will:

1) Create a shared folder to draft and modify statement for consideration

2) Send final draft to Mr. Demby **NLT June 5, 2019** for final consideration

D. **Action Item:** Committee will take the time to review the current franchise agreement and provide feedback (if any) to Dorshae Demby for consideration

IV. Process used for Committee Members to Facilitate Outreach: Per our meeting March 20, 2019, the committee received recommendations on how to engage with the Government Operations (GO) committee and county council members for additional information. Some committee member(s) have reached out to the following:

A. Bernadette reached out to points of contact for Montgomery Community Media and County Cable Montgomery (CCM) and currently working on dates for committee members (those that can make it) to meet them.

B. Stephen volunteered to reach out to points of contact for Montgomery College MCTV and Montgomery County Public School MCPS-TV

C. Committee agreed to use July 17th, August 17th and 21st as potential dates to meet with these organizations

V. Fact finding needs: Charter – Committee would like to get a copy of the CCAC charter and review it.

VI. Questions and Closing Remarks: No additional remarks

VII. Identify next meeting date: CCAC next official meeting is scheduled for September 18, 2019 but interim meetings maybe scheduled to accommodate fore mentioned outreach briefings that are under review.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:57 pm