

Minutes of 5/24/12 Metuchen TV & Technology Advisory Committee

The

regular meeting of the Metuchen TV & Technology Advisory Committee was called to order at 8:10pm on May 24, 2012 in Borough Hall. In attendance were the following members:

Michael Scheller Tom Rockafeller Ken Kim Chris Thuman

Beatrice Moskowitz, Chairperson Mike Guarino,

Administrative

-Mike had circulated copies of the Minutes of the March 22, 2012 meeting via e-mail for review and approval. They were approved with no corrections;

Correspondence

-Mike noted that the Borough Clerk had received **no** new complaints since the prior meeting. He also indicated receipt of an article in the 5/1/12 Home News Tribune regarding the long-standing .50% tax on Cable TV bills in NJ that was supposed to be used to provide Basic Cable TV Service to the elderly and low-income disabled users. However the article noted that the funds were utilized to help balance the state budget.

New Business/On-Going Matters

Cablevision

-Beatrice noted that she had still not received any additional information from Stacy Lazarus of Cablevision, who had agreed to provide the following after her attendance at our January meeting on the costs breakdown on the various municipal services: under *Optimum Business*. Beatrice suggested she call Don Viapre, our Government Affairs liaison at Cablevision for further information on the following:

-a Fee Schedule for the programs offered under their *Optimum Business*, including such services as *Enhanced Traffic Technology*, *Municipal Solutions* and a security camera program.

-a list of several local towns that we could contact regarding their use of some of the municipal services available to towns like Metuchen through their *Optimum Business* program, which the Committee would then review and consider any recommendations;

-feedback as to the need to have full WiFi service inside Borough Hall. The Committee agreed that such service is important and several members confirmed that a user needed to be a Cablevision subscriber and have a password;

- the schools needed more robust bandwidth capabilities between the buildings in order to fully support the number of computers required for the respective schools. Stacy had also agreed to follow up on that need;

Survey/METV Programming/Municipal Website Issues

-Mike advised the Committee of the presentation to the Borough Council highlighting the following Survey issues by Beatrice, Ken and Mike at 5/21/12 Council meeting:

lack of a sufficient variety of local programming on METV;

lower quality picture/reception on METV; and

-Increase public awareness of scope of METV and expand use of the channel within the school system;

The Survey results indicated that while 60% of the 217 respondents indicated they watched MTV frequently or occasionally, 90% don't know what a PEG channel is and 37% indicated they don't know what time programs are on METV;

Advised Council of positive suggestion from Rich at our meeting to add a feature to the municipal website (on which there is a link to METV's program schedule), whereby each week several new shows would be 'spotlighted' by listing them on the home page as "Coming Attractions";

We also suggested that the Council inquire as to the potential for the Board of Education to have more involvement with METV to allow more use of the channel for school activities and programming.

There being no further business, it was moved to adjourn, with next meeting on 6/28/12. M. Guarino, June, 2012

AGENDA FOR 6/28/12 MEETING OF METUCHEN TV & TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

-Review Minutes of 5/24/12 Committee meeting;

-Review of any Correspondence and/or Complaints;

-Review follow-up issues re prior meeting presentation by Cablevision re *Optimum Business* services;

- Follow-up on recommendations from Presentation/Report to Council on Survey results and work group discussion session with Rich DeSimone of METV;

-Any other new business;