

CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
ABQ CABLE INTERNET & PEG ADVISORY BOARD

Date: Tuesday, February, 2024

Time: 5:35 p.m.

Location: WebEx Virtual

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Janie McGuigan

Willard Hunter

Mathias Gibbens

City Staff Present:

Diego Lucero, Media Resources Manager, Department of Arts and Culture

Joseph L. Lynch, PEG Access Coordinator, Department of Arts and Culture

Bryan Rowland, City Attorney, City Legal Department

Catherine Nicolaou, Broadband Manager, Department of Innovation & Technology

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at approximately 5:35p.m. with 3 board members present.

ITEM 1: Approved January Meeting Minutes.

Members approved the Minutes 3-0.

ITEM 2: UPDATES AND DISCUSSION

A) Catherine Nicolaou, Broadband Manager briefed the Board on Broadband connectivity and the status of Fiber Optic networks in City of Albuquerque.

1. Department of Innovation & Technology's mission is to ensure that all residents, business and industry have equal access to affordable internet service, devices and digital equity resources in a competitive marketplace.
2. The focus of the Albuquerque's Broadband Office is on six aspects of broadband technology: access, competition, affordability, digital literacy, devices and workforce.
3. There are 19,000 APS Students in 2024 that have no internet service in their homes. Some may have some access- but typically it is outdated or inaccessible due to an affordability issue.

Nicolaou stated that unfortunately the ACP (Affordable Connectivity Program) for internet access subsidies is no longer in effect because the federal funding was not extended.

4. There are several private companies that have come to the City of Albuquerque asking for access to the public right of way to put down infrastructure. The typical process is that the City will enter into negotiations with these private broadband companies.
 5. These companies are using their own funds to build fiber to homes and to businesses.
 6. The City has three separate broadband licensing agreements as February 2024 with: Vexus, SiFi Networks and Gigapower thus far.
 7. Two other companies have approached the City, but once they found out that there were already three Broadband companies in place they said they would not go forward in discussions at this time with the City.
 8. The purpose of the licensing agreements gives the private companies access to the City's right of way for the purpose of laying infrastructure.
 9. Mathias asked if there was coordination on deployment of fiber infrastructure to ensure all geographic areas of the City have broadband access. Nicolaou said the City makes it very clear to these companies that one of the values is to make sure that when the companies build the fiber optic infrastructure that they don't build around or leave out low income areas of the City.
 10. Affordability is a key feature. Hopefully creating competition will provide the best service as well as prices for citizens, business and industry in Albuquerque.
- B) Janie McGuigan was unanimously voted 3-0 to be the next Chair for the Board.
- C) Joseph Lynch has received two possible applicants for filling the Board vacancy left by Michael Marcotte's resignation.
1. John Osman was one of those applicants.
 2. Mr. Osman attended the meeting to get a chance to see the Board at work and to help him to consider joining.
 3. Joseph Lynch was tasked by the City Clerk's office to vet and interview applicants and make a recommendation to be forwarded to Mayor's office.
- D) Contractor and Vendor Reporting:
1. Candice Neu, Katharsis Media reported that they added 32 new interns functioning in the three different phases of training i.e. 1, 2 & 3. There's 17 phase 2's and 3's. (5 are college graduates. They added 15 new phase 1 interns. They are writing and producing their own shows for Channel 96. Some of the Katharsis interns are producing training videos for new interns on equipment and processes.
 2. The production Bands of Enchantment won an Emmy award that Katharsis Media produced.
 3. Katharsis and Studio 519 will be hosting Skills USA competition for the 2nd year on April 12th.
 4. Katharsis with Studio 519 is also heavily involved with Film Prize Jr. and have provide equipment, editing and technical support for that annual contest.
 5. Sopapilla Productions (Keith Allen & Felicia Masias) reported that they were conducting a short film marathon on Channel 26 made up of 18 Albuquerque filmmakers.
 6. Sopapilla productions will be entering the Hometown Media Awards.
- E) Customer Complaints
1. Joseph Lynch tracked down one of the complaints regarding a Miss Sugarman.
 2. Miss Sugarman had had a months long issue regarding their cable service. She had taken her box to the Cutler location to swap it out. The replacement didn't fix the problem. Returned it again to finally get a newer box that solved her issues. She did have a serviceman who was

to come to the home. Only to say they weren't home when they had waited in their driveway. They watched him drive by and said no one was home.

3. Comcast discounted her Comcast bill to allow for access and service problems that were encountered.
- F) The Board wants to secure monthly and quarterly reporting from Comcast as required by the Franchise Agreement.
- G) Future Board Meetings:
1. The Board chose to continue meeting monthly for the 1st half of 2024 on the 4th Tuesday as in the past.
 2. The Board will not require the Vendors & Contractors to attend every month, but will review vendors submitted monthly reports and make verbal in person reporting every other month beginning in March.
 3. Contractors are welcome to attend any Board meeting and will be given a chance to address the Board if they'd like to.

/S/ _____	_____
Member, Janie McGuigan	Date
/S/ _____	_____
Member, Sebastian Noel	Date
/S/ _____	_____
Member, Willard Hunter	Date
/S/ _____	_____
Member, Mathias Gibbens	Date