

MINUTES
RAINIER COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Wednesday, January 20, 2021

1. Call to Order

President Derek Young called the meeting to order at 8:03 a.m. The meeting was conducted on a Zoom virtual video conference.

<u>Member</u>	<u>Representative</u>	<u>Present/Not Present</u>
DuPont	Andy Takata	Not Present
Fife	Lisa McClellan	Present
Orting	Scott Larson	Present
Pierce County	Derek Young	Present
Pierce County	Libby Catalinich	Present
Puyallup	Ned Witting	Present
Ruston	Deb Kristovich	Not Present
Sumner	Patrick Reed	Present
Tacoma*	Jeff Lueders	Present
University Place	Steve Worthington	Present

City Attorneys:

Puyallup*	Daniel Kenny	Present
DuPont*	Gordan Karg	Present
Fife*	Jennifer Combs	Present
Sumner*	Jeff Steffens	Present
RCC*	Ken Fellman	Present

* Nonvoting member

2. Approval of Agenda

The meeting agenda was approved with changes, noting that Ken Fellman, not Daniel Kenny, would make the presentation for 5a on the agenda.

3. Approval of Minutes

The meeting minutes from November 18, 2020 were approved.

4. Welcome new City of Sumner representatives

Derek Young introduced the new City of Sumner representatives Patrick Reed and alternate Barb Bitetto. He welcomed Patrick Reed who was in attendance. They replace Melony Pederson who moved out of state.

5. Old Business

a) Comcast model franchise renewal update – Ken Fellman, Kissinger and Fellman Megan Hutton explained that the latest draft of the cable franchise was sent out in the calendar appointment this morning. She introduced Ken Fellman, who highlighted key issues that Comcast has agreed to, in the final model agreement document. He commented that this document can be used to start individual negotiations.

Ken Fellman summarized the audit language changes, franchise fees, confidentiality, regulation authority rights, updated insurance language, channel capacity/HD/SD channels, PEG fees changed to a percentage of gross revenue and local code issues.

Derek Young asked Megan Hutton to explain the HD channels. She detailed that RCC currently has standard definition channels that include the PCTV channel, a city channel and an educational channel. The model agreement specifies two high definition channels in addition to those, to meet the needs of the viewer in both SD and HD platforms. The request is for up to three HD channels and two SD channels, with the educational channel moving to the 3rd HD after the fourth year.

Steve Worthington commented that everything looked good, will be an excellent starting point and appreciated everyone's hard work.

Derek Young interjected that he appreciated the job done by the negotiation committee. He noted that the RCC took over the work that was already started by DuPont and Puyallup.

A motion was made to recommend the model franchise agreement for use by jurisdictions. It was seconded, voted on and approved.

Ken Fellman outlined next steps, clarifying that the model is now considered final and can be used by jurisdictions, including sharing in public council meeting documents and negotiating specific issues with Comcast.

b) Establish Rewrite Committee

Megan Hutton explained that the purpose of the committee is to update and combine the RCC interlocal and PCTV participation agreement. Some of the language and rate funding will need to be changed to match the new model franchise agreement. Current members include Derek Young, Steve Worthington, Jeff Cox, Jessica Leiser and Megan Hutton. Jennifer Combs volunteered to be on the committee.

6. New Business

None

7. PCTV Update

a) Approved capital expenditures in progress

Megan Hutton gave an update on the capital equipment purchases happening currently - new 4K cameras, five edit systems and upgrades to the control room with monitors and audio, which will help with virtual meetings, virtual recordings, and studio programs.

b) Biennial Budget 2020-21

Megan Hutton reported that the revenue is holding fairly steady, with cable franchise fees down 0.01% (\$104), but PEG was down 1.3% (\$18,623). She noted that 2020 was a record year for paid videos, up 2.25%, which offset the PEG loss.

She also detailed expenditures and recouped savings during the pandemic. Derek Young responded that this was good budget news.

8. Public Comment

None.

9. Commissioner Comments

Megan Hutton stated she emailed out the RCC Board contact list and asked that any information be sent to her to add and/or change.

10. Adjourned – at 8:57 am

Next meeting: – March 17, 2021

2021 Meetings:

March 17 | May 19 | July 21 | September 15 | November 17