GATCom regular meeting (Government Access Television Access Commission)
Minutes for November 28, 2022

This meeting was held by teleconference.
Video recording of the meeting will appear in this playlist:
https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PL1cC-rkNEFsFLPRx6wh8v6KT5jA4m_f_v;

Present: Aldon Hynes, Mary Hill
Absent: Theresa Bahner
Also present: Pua Ford (coordinator & clerk)

1. Call to Order: The meeting to order at 7:48pm. There are still two vacancies and three filled seats in this commission. Those present proceeded as if two of three filled seats constituted a quorum.

2. Minutes: By consensus, the minutes of October 26, 2022 were accepted as presented.

3. Coordinator Reports (attached)

4. Business:

   a. Coordinator intent to retire on June 30, 2023
      Ford will distribute her draft letter to commission members again and ask Tony Genovese for input before submitting it.

   b. Operating budget FY 2023-2024
      Ford demonstrated budget planning online. The entire current membership should meet to approve a submission; if Bahner is available, the best date would be Wednesday, December 7, 2023. A sample budget of -30% over current budget might be drafted if coverage of any advisory commission were eliminated.

   c. Changing meeting priorities: This issue is moot if a -30% budget were in place.

   d. Other: No other business was noted.

5. Adjournment: By consensus, the meeting adjourned at 8:21pm.

   Respectfully submitted,
   Pua Ford

Next scheduled meetings
Wednesday, January 25, 2023
Wednesday, February 22
Wednesday, March 22

Attached: coordinator reports
WGATV coordinator report for November 2022

Overview
We are managing to cover most meetings with the reduced staff. We worked out how to use the Owl camera in two settings, but it has not been used since 10/24.

Production since October report
10/24 CUPOP 11/15 Ordinance Committee
10/24 Recreation (Owl used) 11/16 WBOE sp (superintendent appointed)
10/26 GATV 11/17 BOF
11/01 Police Cmns special 11/17 Conservation
11/07 TPZ 11/21 WBOE
11/07 Human Services 11/28 Fire Cmns
11/08 Agricultural Cmns 11/28 CUPOP
11/09 BOS 11/30 GATV
11/10 EDC
11/11 Veterans Day

Anticipated
12/1 BRS Building Cmte? 12/13 Agricultural Cmns
12/1 Capital Budgets 12/14 BOS
12/1 Conservation sp 12/15 BOF
12/1 Recreation 12/15 Conservation
12/5 TPZ 12/19 Fire Cmns
12/5 Human Svcs 12/19 Police Cmns
12/6 Capital Budgets 12/19 WBOE
12/8 Econ Development 12/21 Inland Wetlands
12/12 ZBA (if needed)

• Meetings were about 50% in-person, 50% virtual in November.
• Police and Fire Commissions cancelled their regular meetings September-November; held special meetings October-November.
• Woodbridge BOE meetings continue to be held hybrid-style with everyone at a computer, but we did not see any in-person public attending.
• WBOE members want to offer comment to the next BRS Building Committee concerning repair of the swimming pool vs. other capital needs. So, the Owl might be needed.

Personnel
• Nick Bettencourt has been able to keep up work with us.
• Ana Batres had a problem with internet at her home, is interested in doing more production work with us. I hope to hand off more remote work (scheduling channel 79, recording on OBS from home). Schedule to be worked out. She still wants to accept our offer of another monitor, but
• Nancy Spagnolo still wants to continue with us when the job in Hartford settldown. She has one of the new laptops for recording from home; livestreaming might also be possible.
Production/Equipment

Owl camera: We have a laptop dedicated to interfacing with the Owl and figured out how to set it up so someone can start a meeting with it, then go do other things—e.g., Gerry Shaw can host the BRS Building Committee & admit participants, then do other work. Or a WGATV staffer could start Owl with WebEx in the main meeting room, then move to another task for live simulcast. But my offer to make that happen—especially the joint BOS-BOF meetings for budget planning—was turned down by Tony Genovese. Aldon’s suggestion that we need a big monitor to show remote participants makes sense, but we have not yet taken the step about buying one, where to mount it, and who would mount it.

YouTube management: 303 subscribers now. WBOE 11/16 introduction of Superintendent Tencza was the most-watched program, followed by recent BOS, TPZ and Conservation meetings.

Budget Guidelines for FY24

My first visit to the online budget planning site had zeroed out the line for our staff, left the coordinator line at the same level. This resulted in a -37% reduction from our current budget, so I take that as a suggestion. Cable Advisory Council grants and spending from them are not considered part of budget, apparently.

Other

During the 2022 legislative session a bill to boost operational funds for the nonprofit PEG operators was turned into direction for the Public Utility Regulatory Authority to conduct a study. The study is Docket 21-06-26; PURA asked for a lot of data from both the nonprofits and the cable-run PEG stations. Written Comments filed by NECTA (association/lobbyist for Comcast, Spectrum/Charter, Cox, etc.) and by Altice/Cablevision are pretty clear that industry no longer wants the obligation to support community access TV financially. I sent the link to the Altice filing to our representative on the Cable Advisory Council and folks I know from the other town-specific towns.

If there were no “per subscriber fee,” there would be no CAC grant fund or program.
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Notes: Numbers include more than one budget. DAC can use all funds. Po request for transfer. Repositioning is still in process.