

CCTV Center for Media & Democracy

Meeting of the Board of Directors

Time: **Thursday, November 8, 2018 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

Location: **CCTV Center for Media & Democracy, 294 N. Winooski Avenue, Burlington, VT**

[Upcoming Meetings](#) | [Board Contact Information](#)

The mission of CCTV Center for Media & Democracy is to open the door for democratic social change to happen. We aim to be a trusted provider of free speech training, tools and channels. We serve activists, civic leaders, nonprofits and community members who want to increase their reach and impact.

MINUTES

Approval of Minutes

- [October 2018](#) - Approved unanimously.

Approval of Financials

- [October 31, 2018](#) - Approved unanimously.

Note: Sarah is working with our auditor regarding the Common Good Vermont merger, and as such, the September 30, 2018 financials are still pending.

Development Working Group

Discuss the recent and future work of the Development Working Group, specifically including:

- Learnings from current campaign
- Operationalizing the work of this current project beyond the project itself
- Updates to policies/practices, if any

Notes from Development Committee Meeting. Zero Gravity will give us the space for screening for 80 people at no charge. We need to pick the date. They are also interested in giving us a percentage of beer they sell. Mary met with Champlain to get some help on the Free Speech animation segments. Why Free Speech?

Meeting on 11/13 at 10 a.m.

Why is it working? We have an identified problem we are solving with a deadline. Nice to get to know new smart people. Does not feel like a heavy lift. Task driven. Helpful to have technical assistance.

Governance Working Group

Discuss the recent and future work of the Governance Working Group, specifically including:

Status of recruitment process. Asynchronous work underway. Development names for Board Prospects. What partnerships do we see as advantageous, partnerships, skills. What are the gaps we are trying to fill.

Channel 17 Strategic Direction & Business Plan

Discuss next steps. Share out work from 2018. Engagement remains a challenge. Do it in places where people are, Essex HS Auditorium as an example. Community conversations. Invite constituents come. Become the actual in person hub. We can go live from any of these locations now. Partner with Essex Reporter, S Burlington Papers, get young journalists involved. We could also tricast and post to Facebook devices. Create a “happening”.

Let's dig in at next meeting.

[Strategic Planning from 2017.](#)

Advocacy & Strategic Partnerships

- Comcast Case
- Burlington Telecom Sale
- FCC Matters - See Below

Thanks to everyone for helping with Election Night.

Adjourn

FCC Matters: By now you're likely aware of the serious threats posed to PEG Access across the country by forthcoming FCC rulemaking. Most immediate is the Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making (FNPRM) on Cable Franchising, currently in the comment phase. Currently in draft form is the Declaratory Ruling and Third Report and Order on Wireless Infrastructure. Both have the potential to greatly alter or eliminate franchise fees and defund PEG operations nationwide. You can read more in the VAN newsletter sent out last week (I've included the section on the FCC actions at the end of this message).

The Alliance for Community Media (ACM) has begun to mobilize on the FNPRM on Cable Franchising (05-311). If you're on the ACM's email list you've already received the templates for both AMO comments on the rulemaking and a letter of opposition from elected officials. I've attached the comments template and a more Vermont-centric draft of the letter template. Please note that December 14 is the latest anything can be entered into the record.

Here are the calls to action suggested by AMC President Mike Wassenaar:

1. Prepare comments for your organization by December 14 at the latest!

ACM, NATOA and other organizations will be filing comments and reply comments on the proceeding. If your organization wants to file specific comments, we have prepared a template for your use. Be sure to file it on the FCC's website <https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/filings> by Dec 14 at the latest. The Docket number is 05-311.

2. Ask elected officials to make their opinions known to the FCC by December 14 at the latest! We have prepared a letter that can be adapted to your community, and should be used by elected officials (particularly in the US House of Representatives at this point, but at any level). It should be entered into the record at <https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/filings> and emailed to Ajit.Pai@fcc.gov, mike.o'rielly@fcc.gov, Brendon.Carr@fcc.gov and Jessica.Rosenworcel@fcc.gov

In terms of elected officials, Lauren-Glenn has been in touch Sanders, Leahy, and Welch on behalf of VAN. But if you have legislators in your area willing to submit a letter (or will have after Election Day), every bit will help.

If you do submit comments or have folks submit letters, please send copies to Mike Wassenaar (mwassenaar@allcommunitymedia.org) for inclusion in the ACM's work...or send them to me and I'll forward to Mike.

Again, December 14 is the latest anything can be entered into the record.

Please let me know if you have questions. We'll keep you updated on developments. Thanks for your efforts!

Kevin

from the VAN Fall 2018 News & Report (10/24/18)...

Immediate Action Needed! PEG Access Funding is under threat. This is not a drill.

PEG Access funding has not had this serious a threat for many years, and we'll need every AMO in the state to mobilize over the next few weeks. Read on for the specific actions we're asking you to take, but first here is some background to help you understand the issue.

The FCC's "Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making (FNPRM) on Cable Franchising" was published in the Federal Register on October 15. This means that the deadline for comments will be November 14. This proposed Rule seeks to redefine and place a value on cable franchise obligations that have been traditionally defined as "In-Kind" (backhaul of signal, IPG, possibly our PEG channels themselves). The result would be to charge these "expenses" back against the franchise fee and essentially undermine the intent of the Cable Act. The national impact on PEG Access and local municipalities could be devastating.

The national ACM is preparing templates that we can use for our own comments and also for our state elected officials to comment in this proceeding. VAN will get them to you, with some Vermont-centric notes added, when we receive them. In addition, the ACM is working to get more Senate sponsors on a letter to the FCC that disapproves of the FNPRM, composed by Massachusetts Senator Ed Markey. So far it has nine co-signers, including Bernie Sanders and Patrick Leahy. Lauren-Glenn is also in contact with Representative Welch's office to ask for his support.

In further action, the law firm of Spiegel & McDiarmid (represented by Jim Horwood, who is also representing Vermont in the current Comcast suit) will be filing comments on behalf of local governments and a group of interested parties (including the Alliance for Communications Democracy, of which VAN is a member). If your AMO wishes to contribute to Spiegel & McDiarmid's efforts and keep costs down for those in the group, you can reach out to Jim directly at james.horwood@spiegelmc.com.

[HERE](#) is the ACM's one-page summary of the *FNPRM on Franchising*, as well as the FCC's *Order on Wireless Infrastructure*, both of which have the potential of jeopardizing how PEG Access is funded and the power of local municipalities to control their public rights-of-way. But for the immediate moment, we must concentrate on sending letters and filing comments to the *first one*, the FCC's *FNPRM on Franchising*.

Forthcoming to you will be instructions on what to say in a letter to your state, federal and local elected officials, and enough information for you, your board directors and community supporters to compose and file your own comments with the FCC. Once the issues have been clearly stated as to how they would affect us here in Vermont, you'll be encouraged to quickly get your letters and comments out the door.

FYI, you can read the FCC's Docket 18-131 proceedings on Cable Franchising [HERE](#). [The [Wireless Infrastructure](#) threat is still only in "draft" form with its comment period yet to come, and so no action is necessary yet on this.]