

Access Tucson
Board of Directors
August 16, 2007

MINUTES

The meeting of the Board of Directors of Access Tucson was called to order at 5:02 p.m. on August 16, 2007 by Chair, J. Lisa Jones.

Present

Sandee Brooke
Elizabeth Burden
Cynthia Dickstein
Dan Dougherty
Jerry Freund
Gerald Harwood
Ben Jacobs

J. Lisa Jones
Michael Mulcahy
Karla Ronquillo
Rueben Roqueñi
Elaine Schramm
Francine Shacter

Absent

Martha McGrath

Others present:

Sam Behrend, Carol Romano, Ann Strine, and Daniela Ontiveros, and La Monte Ward

Call to Audience: None

Minutes – Approval of minutes May 10 and May 24, 2007 – discussion/action-

Sandee Brooke moved to approve the minutes from May 10 and May 24, 2007. Reuben Roqueñi seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

City of Tucson report/update –

Ann Strine reported on the following:

-Master Operating Agreement

Strine updated the board on the Master Operating Agreement between the City and Access Tucson. The initial draft version of the MOA will be presented by the next board meeting. In the interim the City will be issuing Access Tucson a letter that states that the current agreement stays in place until the new agreement is finalized.

-PEG Taskforce

Strine informed the board that during the July City Council meeting the names of four candidates for the PEG taskforce were presented, in anticipation of three more names. The initial direction will be set by Mayor and Council, aiming to meet mid to late September. Suggestions were made for meetings to be held at Access Tucson, TUSD etc.

-Cox

Strine mentioned that Cox has announced that they are upgrading their system to 1 GHz within the next 18 months.

Cox Communications report/update – No report

Comcast report/update – No report

Executive Director report/update –

Sam Behrend reported on the following:

-Local Video Franchising FNPRM Coalition vs. the FCC

Behrend updated the board on the litigation happening between the Local Video Franchising FNPRM Coalition and the FCC. The coalition tried to get a stay on the cable and telephone competition but the stay was rejected. The objection to the FCC brief is being filed in the 6th district. The overview of the suit is based on the FCC issuing new rule making that went beyond the authority of the FCC. The new rules went into affect 48 hours after they were published.

-Alliance for Community Media

Behrend spoke about the buzz regarding Community Media 2.0. Behrend also mentioned the progress that has been made internally in figuring out how to take the current content and make it available not just on the television channels but also over the internet in full resolution, digital files, streaming, and other ways that can be seen on wireless equipment. Access Tucson is in the process of automating the whole procedure and on how to implement it within in the next six months. He added that the other part of the process is in negotiating with the City in getting a bigger pipeline to transmit larger digital files and more content.

-Master Operating Agreement

Behrend updated the board on the MOA. Behrend has read the draft and will meet with Ann Strine to discuss the details of the agreement. Behrend reported that it appears the City is asking for more accountability and reporting in which he adds, “we are happy to oblige.”

-Community Media Center

Behrend announced that Poster Frost Associates, the architecture firm hired to do a feasibility study on expanding our building, has met and talked with other potential players. Access Tucson will meet with them next. He explained that the scope of the study is to see if this facility can be used for more than the purposes being used now. Other organizations currently involved are KXCI, Channel 12, TUSD, Pan Left, Sun Sounds, and Access Tucson. Behrend also mentioned that you can go to the City of Tucson website and get information on the PEG taskforce, you can also find Agendas and meeting times, stating that this is a good resource for information.

-Digital Channel Switch

Behrend informed the board on the channel switch which took place on July 30th, in which channel 97 moved to 120. He also added that we are currently experiencing some glitches on the TV-Guide channel and that 120 is still not listed, but that programming issues are being worked on. He also mentioned the Comcast interconnect, where no problems have been reported. Behrend also spoke to Kellie Maslin from Comcast and she assured him that there would be no interruptions and no plans to change the channel line-up. Furthermore Access Tucson has now received an agreement from Comcast to start providing on demand programming with them.

Board member Elaine Schramm thanked everybody for the get-well card. She also asked the board if anybody knew more information on moby.com internet television channel, adding that it would be good for us to find out more about it.

Executive Committee report –

Lisa Jones reported on the following:

Jones thanked everybody for being present. Jones reminded the board that a year ago a mandate was set to examine the Grievance Policy and Code of Conduct. Michael Mulcahy sent out a suggestion for the process.

a. Revised Code of Conduct – evaluation-report

In summary, Jones explained the process consisting of putting out a request to gather feedback from staff and Access Tucson members using a feedback form, submitting a short written report based on the gathered information, once the feedback has been gathered all information will go to the Board Affairs Committee in turn they will report back to the board of directors. La Monte Ward, Deputy Director of Access Tucson, recommends using Michael's procedure. La Monte added that the main issue driving the revision was regarding the procedure of notification and that even though there have been disciplinary actions we have not dealt with appeals. The Executive Committee approved passing Mulcahy's suggestion for the process of the review of Code of Conduct and Members Grievance Policy allowing for two 4 week periods. One period to allow for member and staff input followed by a second 4 week period for the Board Affairs Committee to conclude an evaluation and recommendation.

Strategic Planning Committee report/discussion/action –

Liz Burden reported on the following:

Burden informed the board that within the board packet a document was included that proposed a 6 month time line for the process. Burden also clarified that the committee was comprised of a maximum of 5 board members, 5 staff, and 5 active members. She added that the committee is currently at the end of the preparation phase. Burden gave the board an overview of the process and time line. Francine Schacter moved, seconded by Jerry Freund, to approve the plan-to-plan as proposed. Liz called the question, passed unanimously.

a. Process to engage the facilitator to develop the plan-to-plan— action

Behrend discussed the range of engagement for the facilitator, the scope of the work, and the budget which stands at \$5,000 for a local facilitator. Behrend added that the committee is looking for a motion that would authorize the committee working with staff to conduct an RFP process with in the consultant guidelines of Access Tucson, followed by selecting the facilitator to contract with him/her. Francine Schater moved, seconded by Sandee Brooke, passed unanimously.

Liz asked the board to make a note of the two retreat dates happening Saturday October 6th and Saturday November 3rd. The next Strategic Planning Committee meeting will be Monday August 28th.

Date, time and agenda items for the next meeting – Thursday, September 20, 2007 at 5:00 p.m.

1. Report ACM – report from those who attended conference
2. Election of Officers
3. Master Operating Agreement
4. Preparedness Committee Report

Adjournment – Cynthia Dickstein moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Jerry Harwood. The meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.