

Greenbelt Access Television, Inc.
Minutes of
The Board of Directors Meeting of
January 14, 2019, 7pm

Present:

Frank Gervasi, Bob Zugby, Renee Raysor, Konrad Herling, Deb Hartwick, Maria Silvia Miller, Claude Aubert, Rev. Ray Rensor, Ric Gordon (elected to the Board after the meeting's start), Andy Zmidzinski, George Kochell.

Absent: Phoebe McFarb (taking a well deserved vacation)

Welcome & Commencement of Board Meeting by President Frank Gervasi
Motion to approve agenda by Deb, seconded by Bob, motion passed.

Bob Zugby moved and Deb seconded the motion to add Ric Carson to serve on the Board of Directors.

Treasurer's Report – Reviewed and Approved.

President's Report – Frank Reported on highlights of the last several months: upgraded computers, the Utopia Festival, correspondence with the Alliance for Community Media.

What are the other PEG operations in the County? Frank reported that Hyattsville's operation is funded by and operates for the City government only. They have a tech fee which raises \$500k.

News: GATe Board Member Rev. Ray Rensor is now on the Board of Prince George's Video

Goals & Accomplishments

Claude Aubert/Communications Committee:

Reported: Lost focus on public access aspect, fewer public access projects. There were 24 projects finished. Four cameras were loaned out during the year. Claude didn't have official numbers for 2019.

Response: Difficult to make this work when folks who take the classes, or who actually shot the footage do not know how to complete the projects.

Goals: To increase this number.

Andy Zmidzinski reported that the Board needs to be more active in addressing the need for more public access productions to occur. Maria indicated that Andy needed more resources/personnel to follow through on completing public productions, someone in their mid 20's to mid 30's.

Konrad did indicate that he had sent an email from a professor at the University of Maryland who might have ideas as to how this concern could be addressed. Andy indicated that he thought that Konrad was going to follow through with this; Konrad indicated that the Professor wished to speak directly with Andy.

Andy also indicated that he was determined, and this has been done, to increase the number of high quality productions which actually could go on the air and that such productions would increase the opportunity for the community to see GATe as a viable source for informative, quality server of the community.

Bob expressed a high hope that we wouldn't let the idea of increasing Public Access productions go. He also observed that the productions were more professional but that a certain percentage of the public access productions be established as a goal of operation.

Maria pointed out that her goal to secure Classical Film production sponsors has resulted in securing sponsors from Maria's beauty shops and soon, possibly, sponsorship from Beijing. This outreach effort needs to include Board members as sponsors. Sponsors contributions would be identified six times a day/42 times a week.

Claude offered the idea of a "fund raising week".

Guest Dave McCarty mentioned coverage of recreational programs. Rene mentioned a "books a million" program at Franklin Park which was good but amateurish.

Ray offered the idea of productions being broken into parts, where a member of the Greenbelt area public could write, another person run the camera. Several board members emphasized that the area of actual editing clearly is the area that needs to be addressed.

(This is an aside from the main discussion: Ray also announced that Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks has requested that Ray help with a county disabilities group.)

Deb offered two ideas: a Talk Show, and to show Utopia films on a monthly basis. It was noted by Frank that this required securing the movie producer's permission.

Geo announced that we are in the 22nd year of producing animation programs. He also identified the need to secure another producer to help out with young people's programs. These programs, Geo indicated, help with the image of GATe's service to the Community.

Andy expressed the need to keep these ideas coming and that each board member needed to step up.

Maria expressed the need for classes that we offer to hold the hands of the public all the way to actually editing a project.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Administrative Committee's Recommendations to Change ByLaws were moved by Ray, seconded by Ric and approved by the Board. These recommendations will not take official effect until voted on favorably by the Membership at the Membership meeting in March. Ray pointed out that the membership meeting required 30 days notice. Secretary Herling indicated that he would do so.

STAFF REPORTS:

Executive Director reported that the renewal of the adobe suite would cost \$2,190, which is less than the cost for that service was last year. The Telview Maintenance Agreement should be covered by the \$2190 cost.

ANIMATION FACILITATOR

Geo reported that festival submissions have begun which included the Santa Barbara festival. There were 138 views of animation.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Communications: Claude Aubert decided to table t-shirt proposal since no ideas came in

Utopia: No report was provided by Deb.

Marketing & Grants: Maria Silva Miller / Konrad Herling – Given already during the course of discussion on goals and accomplishments.

Administration: Bob Zugby, Chair. Bylaws Amendment already discussed and acted upon earlier in the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50pm.

Minutes provided by Konrad Herling, Secretary