

**DANBURY, BETHEL, RIDGEFIELD  
CABLE ADVISORY COUNCIL  
3 Fox Den Road, Danbury, CT 06811  
Telephone: 203-792-2436**

**MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 21, 2008  
City Hall  
Danbury, Connecticut**

**MEETING OPENED:** 7:10 pm by Dianne Eppinger, Chairman

**Attendance:** A=Absent, EA=Excused Absence, L=Late, LE=Left Early

**Present:**

Ridgefield: AnneMarie Surfaro-Boehme, Cary Nadel,  
Danbury: Dianne Eppinger, Sondra Grossi, Lynn Waller  
Bethel: Robert Pitt, Robin Renner  
Comcast: Sharon Codeanne, David King, Patrick Perrefort

**Absent:**

Danbury: Greg Scalzo(A)  
Bethel: Anne Freestone (EA)

**Call to Order:**

A quorum is present for the meeting.

**Public Comments**

No public comments.

**Chairman's Report:**

The Minutes of the November 15, 2007 meeting were approved on Motion by AnneMarie Surfaro-Boehme, seconded by Lynn Waller. Robin Renner and Sondra Grossi abstained. Motion approved.

Chairman reported that subscriber complaints regarding the *Weather Channel* were forwarded to Sharon Codeanne for action. Sharon responded that the customers were contacted and the problems resolved.

Chairman asked Comcast why ESPNU is not available in this franchise area. Sharon reported that Comcast does not contract with ESPNU anywhere in the United States. UCONN basketball fans are upset that the channel is not offered in this franchise.

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MAR 28 2008

TOWN OF BETHEL  
TOWN CLERK

**Treasurer's Report:**

Balance was \$\$9,561.13, current \$10,152.47. Balance reflects \$2000.00 payment received from Comcast. Report was unanimously approved on Motion by Robin Renner, seconded by AnneMarie Surfaro-Boehme.

**Comcast's Report:**

Sharon Codeanne reported:

**Community Relations**

Comcast Cares Day to be held in May.

**Marketing**

On December 11<sup>th</sup> "WCTX" was added at channel 21 in the Basic Service Tier and "CN8" was moved from channel 21 to channel 188 in the Digital Starter Package.

On December 20<sup>th</sup> Comcast made a price adjustment filing with the DPUC; the new rates became effective on February 1, 2008.

On December 31<sup>st</sup> "Nick Gas" changed its name to "The N."

On January 1<sup>st</sup> "Court TV" changed its name to "Tru TV."

On January 27<sup>th</sup> "Discovery Times" changed its name to "Investigation Discovery."

On January 31<sup>st</sup> "Encore Action," "Encore Mystery," "Encore Love" and "Encore Westerns" will move from the Digital Preferred tier to the Digital Classic tier; "Bloomberg" was launched at channel 178 in the Digital Classic tier; and "Fox Business" was added at channel 106 in the Digital Classic tier.

**Miscellaneous**

On December 18<sup>th</sup> the DPUC granted Comcast's request for a Certificate of Franchising Authority.

**Community Access Report:**

Dave King reported the following:

Annual Open House was held on December 11, 2007. We had a nice turnout of current and prospective Community Access producers.

The annual DPUC Community Access Provider report was completed and submitted to the DPUC.

Camera 2 is "acting up" again and will likely be sent out to the Comcast Repair Center again next week.

Our next Video Production Training Course is scheduled to begin on Friday, April 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. It will run for six consecutive weeks. We are currently promoting the course to the public and accepting applications.

We have a new program called *Cooking Latino* on Channel 23. It is scheduled to air on Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. beginning March 6<sup>th</sup>.

We assisted a Ridgefield resident in the production of a program called *Red-Y Or Not!* This special program focused on raising awareness of heart disease in women. It has aired at various times and dates throughout the month of February – *American Heart Month*.

Sharon elaborated on the Certificate of Cable Franchise Authority granted to Comcast by the DPUC pursuant to Public Act No. 07-253. She indicated that the Certificate replaces the 1999 Franchise Agreement. The main difference between the Franchise Agreement and the new Certificate of Cable Franchise Authority is the elimination of the renewal process. The 2007 legislation requires that Comcast continue to provide and fund community access and also to maintain the studio. Community Access Rules will still apply. AT&T UVerse will be required to provide Community Access Programming but no information or details as to how this will be implemented have yet been received.

An AT&T Statewide Council will be established and the DBR has been requested to appoint a member to serve. (New business Item s)

On Motion by Robin Renner, seconded by AnneMarie Surfaro-Boehme, Cary Nadel was appointed as the representative to the Statewide Advisory Council established by AT&T.

With the change to digital transmission scheduled to take place next year, AnneMarie stated that Comcast should consider providing each community with its own channel. It would allow each community flexibility to communicate public service announcements to its residents.

Council members requested that Comcast explore the possibility of replacing some of the equipment in the Access studio because of the age and frequent need for repair of cameras used by Community Access Producers.

#### **Old Business:**

Bob Pitt reported that he has reviewed the rules per the Council's request. It does not appear that any changes are needed to the existing Channel 23 rules at the present time. As to Channel 24, the Governmental channel, rules should be clear that governmental meetings should be aired gavel to gavel. He indicated that the consensus of the Council is that the Educational channel, Channel 26, should be restricted to programming of a non political nature, such as student productions, band concerts, sporting events, generated by students and qualified staff of the educational systems. The Council should make it clear to Comcast in its request to revise the rules that Board of Education meetings do not belong on the educational channel and that the channel be clearly restricted to educational programming and specifically not include broadcasting of Board of Education meetings.

The proposed revisions will be provided to all Council members for review prior to submission to Comcast.

**New Business:**

- a. Robinson & Cole LLP November 21, 2007 letter to DPUC re Comcast Programming Change and Waiver Request.
- b. State of Connecticut, Department of Public Utility Control, Notice of Written Exceptions, Briefs and Oral Argument re Docket No. 07-05-23, DPUC Review of AT&T Connecticut's Community Access Funding Obligations and Draft Decision dated November 27, 2007.
- c. Attorney Martin J. Lawlor November 28, 2007 Response to John McGowan's November 15, 2007 FOI Request.
- d. Robinson & Cole LLP December 3, 2007 letter to DPUC re Docket No. 07-12-\_\_ - Application of Comcast of Danbury, Inc. for a Certificate of Cable Franchise Authority (Danbury Franchise Area).
- e. Town of Ridgefield December 7, 2007 letter notice of re-appointment of Ridgefield members to the DBR Cable Advisory Council.
- f. State of Connecticut, Department of Public Utility Control December 10, 2007 letter to Robinson & Cole LLP re Comcast Cablevision - Notice of Programming Changes and Request for Waiver Pursuant to § 16-333f of the General Statutes of Connecticut.
- g. State of Connecticut, Office of Consumer Counsel, letter dated December 11, 2007 to DPUC re DPUC Review of AT&T Connecticut's Community Access Funding Obligations - Docket No. 07-05-23.
- h. Brown Rudnick Berlack Israels LLP December 11, 2007 letter to DPUC re Docket No. 07-05-23 - DPUC Review of AT&T Connecticut's Community Access Funding Obligations - with Written Exceptions of Cablevision of Connecticut enclosure.
- i. AT&T December 11, 2007 letter to DPUC re Docket No. 07-05-23 - DPUC Review of AT&T Connecticut's Community Access Funding Obligations - Letter in lieu of Written Exceptions.
- j. Robinson & Cole LLP December 11, 2007 letter to DPUC re Docket No. 07-05-23 - DPUC Review of AT&T Connecticut's Community Access Funding Obligations.
- k. Murtha Cullina LLP December 11, 2007 letter to DPUC re Docket No. 07-05-23 - DPUC Review of AT&T Connecticut's Community Access Funding Obligations - New England Cable & Telecommunications Association Letter in lieu of Written Exceptions.
- l. Murtha Cullina LLP December 11, 2007 letter to DPUC re Docket No. 07-05-23 - DPUC Review of AT&T Connecticut's Community Access Funding Obligations - Comments of Cox Communications New England.

- m. AT&T December 12, 2007 letter to DPUC re Docket No. 07-05-23 re DPUC Review of AT&T Connecticut's Community Access Funding Obligations – Request for Postponement of Oral Argument.
- n. State of Connecticut, Department of Public Utility Control, Docket No. 07-05-23 December 17, 2007 Notice of Rescheduled Oral Arguments re DPUC Review of AT&T Connecticut's Community Access Funding Obligations.
- o. State of Connecticut, Department of Utility Control December 17, 2007 Notice of Request for Written Comments re Docket No. 07-10-11.
- p. State of Connecticut, Department of Public Utility Control December 18, 2007 letter to Robinson & Cole LLP re Docket No. 07-12-04, Application of Comcast/Danbury for a Certificate of Cable Franchise Authority.
- q. Robinson & Cole LLP December 20, 2007 letter to DPUC re Comcast Price Adjustment.
- r. Robinson & Cole LLP December 31, 2007 letter to DPUC re Comcast – Programming Changes and Channel Additions.
- s. AT&T January 4, 2008 letter to DBR Cable Advisory Council re appointment of member to statewide video advisory council for AT&T.
- t. State of Connecticut, Department of Public Utility Control, January 9, 2008 letter to Robinson & Cole LLP re Docket No. 07-11-16 – DPUC Review of Comcast of Danbury FCC Forms 1240 and 1205.
- u. Comcast January 11, 2008 letter to DPUC re Comcast/Danbury CATV Report & Viewing Time Reliability December 2007 report.
- v. Comcast January 11, 2008 letter re Annual Payment to DBR Cable Advisory Council.
- w. State of Connecticut, Department of Public Utility Control Decision re Docket No. 07-05-23 – DPUC Review of AT&T Connecticut's Community Access Funding Obligations.
- x. 2007 DBR Annual Report to Department of Public Utility Control.
- y. Robinson & Cole LLP February 1, 2008 letter to DPUC re Comcast Programming Changes and Channel Additions.

All of the above Agenda items were reviewed and discussed by the Council and Comcast representatives present.

**Public Comments - follow-up:**

**No follow-up public comments.**

**Motion to Adjourn: Robert Pitt  
Second: AnneMarie Surfaro-Boehme  
Vote: Unanimously Approved**

**Meeting Adjourned: 8:30 pm. by the Chairman**

Minutes as recorded by Dianne Eppinger, Chairman and presented subject to approval, on April 17, 2008.

(Signed)

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Dianne Eppinger