Claremont Cable Franchise Public Discernment Forum
SRVRTC John Goodrich Community Room
October 18, 2014
Minutes

Present

Victor Bergeron. Keith Druhl, Bernie Folta, Mike Tetu, Joel Schneid

Business

1) The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM

2) Joel Schneid presented the minutes of the Claremont Cable Franchise Advisory Board Subcommittee meeting held on October 2, 2014
   a) Victor Bergeron moved to accept the minutes as written, Joel Schneid seconded

3) Public Comments – Mike Tatu
   a) Mr. Tetu provided a brief history of cable service in Claremont
   b) Expressed his concerns regarding the affordability of the service
   c) Suggested that Comcast offer CCTV-only access for $9.95 per month for those who didn't want commercial TV
   d) Requested that Comcast support a television studio at Stevens HS for use by CCTV, students, and the community
   e) Asked how much is charged for the franchise fee, how is it listed on the bill, and what is the total collected and how is it used by the City?
   f) Would like to see more of the franchise fee go to support CCTV but is not suggesting a fee increase

4) Public Comments – Bernie Folta
   a) Mr. Folta said that he was not a subscriber of television service but was concerned with broadband access
   b) Would like Comcast to disclose where broadband service is and isn't available in Claremont – presently they have not provided this information and the City of Claremont has supported Comcast's position
   c) Suggested that full broadband service be offered at no charge to Claremont residents
   d) Noted that improvements in technology make DSL service competitive to broadband
   e) Commented that wireless is an up and coming technology that will be competitive with broadband
   f) Suggested that the subcommittee examine the Vermont franchise model where the state of VT negotiates a common cable contract for all cities and towns
   g) Suggested that Comcast set up a CATV access point for live broadcasts at the Claremont Visitors' Center since several meetings have been held there

h) Commended the City webpage for including a link to CCTV

i) Would like to know the number of subscribers Comcast serves

j)

5) Chair comments – Vic Bergeron

a) There will be a training on how to negotiate with cable TV providers held in Raymond on October 28 – more information will be forthcoming

b) Additional citizen comments and concerns may be sent to the Chair via email: ward1council@comcast.net

c) Next discernment forum on November 6, 2014 at 7.00 PM

6) The forum was adjourned at 10:45 since no other citizens arrived

Respectfully submitted,

Joel Schneid