

Belmont Cable Access Committee (CAC)
Minutes 5/20/2003
7:00PM, BCTV Channel 8 Studio

Present

Committee: John Verrilli, Todd Bloniarz, Maryann Scali, Bob Blakelock
Comcast: Mark Ventola, Abiodun Shobowale
Also present: Rob McCausland, Victoria Haase

Call to Order

John Verrilli officially called the meeting to order at 7:10.

Review of 4/15/02 Minutes

Minutes were received and approved as amended; the Ch. 8 studio open house was postponed until this fall. Bob pointed out that Belmont presently has four channels on the cable system that could be utilized; Ch. 8 (current access station), Ch. 21 (currently broadcasting NECN), Ch. 57 (currently broadcasting C-SPAN2) and Ch. 60 (currently running Belmont High School announcements). If there was a need, the town of Belmont could ask to use of all four channels.

Membership issues

With Bob Blakelock attending his last CAC meeting (after officially announcing his resignation), John thanked Bob for all his years of service on the CAC. Names being considered for possible new membership include Victoria Haase (in attendance at tonight's meeting as an observer), who suggested that a letter be written up and given to considered CAC candidates describing the objectives of the CAC. John will draft a letter. Another name brought up for possible membership was Denise Harrington (who recently completed the Ch. 8 production workshop). An issue that came up regarding Denise was that she would be unable to vote on the CAC because she is not a town resident. There was a recent mailing from the Belmont Light Department that asked customers if they had any interest in being a member on any town committees and nine people expressed an interest to join the CAC. Maryann will follow up with Sandra Curro to find out the names of these nine people and see if they would at least like to attend a future CAC meeting.

Coverage of Upcoming Town Meetings

The dates are scheduled for June 16th, 17th, and possibly the 18th if needed. These meetings will be covered live on Channel 8.

Report on Studio Operations

Abiodun said that the just completed production workshop culminated with all 17 graduates (adults and children) being honored with certificates at the 2003 Belmont/Lexington/Bedford Awards Ceremony held at the Belmont High School Little Theatre and the Ch. 8 studio on May 16. Abiodun also reported that the weekly Kids Club workshop is a continued success and the kids are planning to produce a live talk

show called “Belmont Youth Voices”. The next general studio workshop is slated to begin on July 14.

Maryann circulated a letter from the League of Women Voters thanking the station staff for their coverage of the Voter Information night and other programs.

The committee wants thank Cori Morris for all her years of service to Ch. 8; Cori is leaving Comcast next month to study broadcasting overseas in London.

The meeting was swiftly adjourned at 7:30 in order to begin the joint meeting between the CAC and Cable Advisory Committee.

Next Meeting

Tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, June 24, 7:30pm at the studio but could be moved depending on a second joint CAC/Advisory Committee meeting that was being considered for Thursday, June 19.

Respectfully submitted,

Todd Bloniarz