

Darien TV 79 Advisory Board
Special Meeting
Wednesday
April 27, 2016
7:30 p.m.
Room 119

Present: Jim Cameron, David Dever, Marilyn Hart, Nanci Natale and Mike Wheeler

Absent: Gene Coyle

Guests: Jay Hardison, Catherine Beckmann

Meeting called to order at 7:30PM.

Approval of Minutes of October 27, 2015

Marilyn Hart noted that attendees were not cited. Jim Cameron said he would update.

Moved to approve by Mike Wheeler, Seconded by David Dever, Minutes were approved.

Welcome and introduction to Jay Hardison and Catherine Beckmann who are candidates for the open position on the TV79 Advisory Board.

Lynn Hamlen has moved out of town and Jayme Stevenson asked that Jim Cameron be Acting Chair until our elections are held later in the year. She also suggested changing the Advisory Board to a commission. Nanci Natale pointed out that becoming a commission may cause conflict with those currently on the Board with their membership in the RTM. It will be looked into.

Programming

- Reviewing Viewership: The Board reviewed the winter 2015-16 online survey results – Has viewership changed since we went with Vimeo and on-demand: Survey went to 750 members, Twitter, local media etc. and had 93 responses
- Live Stream surpassed 1000 visitors since launch in January 2016. Example: 5 people watched the live stream of the RTM Shuffle Finance Recap.
- Vimeo statistics: April 2016 has had 2927 loads and 702 plays. The most plays were for David Genovese Plan, DAC Photo Contest and a P&Z meeting.
- We are currently covering 5 meetings per week, First Selectman Stevenson would like more coverage – a) for government transparency and b) in a hope that some of the more volatile meetings would be tempered if attendees knew they were on tape.
- Jim Cameron reviewed the list of meetings for a typical week and explained how he decides what to cover based on staff and availability. We currently have 4 good candidates to join the staff and be videographers for the increased meeting coverage.

Tech

- Limited resources – how to expand and increase availability – suggested permanent embedded cameras in room 119 (3 remote cameras, locking rack for security etc.) Some funds are available for this equipment (\$15K is already funded through the town of Darien but \$20-\$25K would be needed.) Ms. Stevenson has asked what would be needed to get the extra coverage.
- What do we need? 1-2 tripods, slightly better quality camera, UPS power in booth etc., for more shoots.
- We have asked for \$6K from Area 9 for servers but \$12-\$23K have been the quotes for the servers, and it was decided to forego this at the time.
- Good News: Dave Dever worked with Mike Phylis and pulled out 25 year-old analog video processor from the rack – when this was removed we became completely digital and our on-air picture quality improved significantly.

Budget

- The Altice Group is purchasing Cablevision – first step after purchase would be cutting costs – the worry is that they will cut programming like Channel 79 so for the immediate future we will stay on a DVD based system in case Channel 79 goes away after this acquisition. Completion date is unsure but “the later the better.”
- If Altice drops town-specific TV79 model we would rely on internet “live stream” and Vimeo on-demand archives for viewers.
- Mike Wheeler moved that we accept the Dave Dever/Jim Cameron proposed budget for review by First Selectman Stevenson, 2nd by Nanci Natale. Approved. Budget request will head to the First Selectman.

Other

Proposed dates for future meetings are July 12th and October 11th and were confirmed by all.

Move to adjourn by Mike Wheeler, 2nd by Marilyn Hart. Meeting adjourned at 8:29 PM.

Respectfully submitted
April 27, 2016
Nanci Natale, Secretary