Mission Statement of DATV

DATV is a community forum that empowers all citizens to learn, create and

express their ideas through electronic media.

MINUTES FROM

MONDAY, February 20, 2023

DATV BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

DATV CONFERENCE ROOM – 5:30 PM
Lunches were provided.

**OFFICERS PRESENT:**
Marlese Durr, chair
Joyce Willis , vice chair

Jodi Owens, Secretary

Maggie Barlow, treasurer

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**
Rev. William Harris
Judy Johnson
Erica Fields
Amaha Sallassie

**NOT PRESENT: Guests:**

Mayor Jeffery Mims No-Guests in attendance

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Marlese Durr called the meeting to order at 5:35 PM and began with our roll call.

**BOARD CHAIR COMMENTS:**
Marlese Durr welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending in person noting it is good to be able to see people we have not seen in some time.

**APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES FROM the December 19, 2022 meeting.**

Rev. Harris motioned to approve the minutes and Maggie Barlow seconded the motion, vote carried.

**CONSENT AGENDA**
The Chair ask is all approved of the consent agenda. After offering some time to look over the committee reports and treasurers report, Maggie Barlow made the motion to approve the consent agenda, with Joyce Willis seconding the motion, it was approved.

A) Committee Reports

a) Executive Committee: none

B) Nominating Committee: None

C) Investment Committee: Attached

D) Personal Committee: None

E) Development Committee: None

B) Approval of Treasurer’s Report: Jodi Owens moved to approve the report, Joyce Willis seconded the motion, and the motion passed

C) Executive Director’s Report: Attached. Randy reminded the board of our upcoming 45th Anniversary and the celebration on March 1st, 2023, at 7 pm and ask each board member to make a donation toward the celebration even if it is $1 so we can say we had 100% support from our board of Directors as the “Voice of Change” in the City of Dayton. Randy called for all board members to renew their memberships and provided forms that they may do so. Additionally, he spoke of a recent interaction with a couple of commissioners. Erica Fields recommended we seek a workshop with the commissioners to present how we are funded in a public forum so the public may be informed as well on how we are funded through franchise fees and not from the general fund. Erica has agreed to speak with Regina about the workshop schedule and aid in slotting us in.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

None

**Cable Administrator Comments:**

Randy shared that he is in discussions with Spectrum concerning upgrading our transmissions from Standard Definition to HD. MCC and Bellbrook will begin transmitting in HID on March 22nd so we would like to explore this possibility for DATV. Randy reported that he did speak with Toni Braxton, Cable administrator with the City of Dayton, to inquire if the city would like to join us in this discussion to upgrade their channels as well. After conferring with Andrew Estevez, Toni emailed Randy to say they were not interested in seeking HD for the City. Randy is reaching out to Dayton Public Schools to see if they are interested in partnering with DATV for this discussion with Spectrum. Erica recommended reaching out the City Manager directly in thinking they may truly want to put a better foot forward and mention this in our workshop with the City Commission.

OLD BUSINESS:

Marlese recalled a previous discussion on the seeking of state Senators to review SB117 that was passed in 2007 which limited franchise fees to cable customers only and removed internet from those franchise fees hoping to reverse this stance. Marlese also suggested we speak to the mayor on what our next contract may look like. We have our contract for this year, but we need to look at the future.

Marlese stated that we need to update on committee chairs. She did not feel she could be the chair of the board and chair the personnel committee. She recommended Joyce Willis for chair of the personal committee, who accepted after some discussion on what those responsibilities were and how often they meet.

NEW BUSINESS:

Maggie questioned the letter writing campaign that Marlese suggested to state legislators about restructuring SB 117 to add back internet to franchise fees.

Randy pointed out that in some areas cable companies, since 2019, have been interpreting a rule about franchise fee they may reduce their fees by other forms of support. There is US legislation currently proposed by Senator Ed Markley, (MA) who has introduced the “Protecting Community Television Act” to this year congress and senate. This bill is to clarify that franchise fees for public right of way means monetary – and eliminates one of the central premises behind the FCC’s cable franchising order from 2019 that fees can be reduced by cable companies to pay for other forms of support such as in-kind services.

NOTE:
*The bill (S 340) has 17 original co-sponsors in the Senate****–****That’s more than last session thanks to ACM members who have advocated for the measure. The Senate co-sponsors are:*

*Tammy Baldwin (WI), Charles Schumer (NY), Richard Blumenthal (CT), Ben Cardin (MD), Diane Feinstein (CA), Mazie Hirono (HI), Angus King (ME), Amy Klobuchar (MN), Jeff Merkley (OR), Chris Murphy (CT), Bernie Sanders (VT), Brian Schatz (HI); Jeanne Shaheen (NH), Tina Smith (MN), Elizabeth Warren (MA). Peter Welch (VT), Ron Wyden (OR).*

*A companion bill (HR 907) has been reintroduced in the House by Rep. Anna Eshoo (CA) with 13 co-sponsors as well.  They are:*

*Adam Schiff (CA), Jamie Raskin (MD), Suzanne Bonamici (OR), Eleanor Holmes-Norton (DC), Jared Huffman (CA), Jimmy Panetta (CA), Elissa Slotkin (MI), Jake Auchincloss (MA), Barbara Lee (CA), Dean Phillips (MN), David Trone (MD), Betty McCollum (MN), James McGovern (MA).*

I do not see any Ohio people on the sponsors and co-sponsors list, and there need to be. I do suggest we reach out to our representatives and get them behind this action and get our Ohio representatives behind the action to get internet included into the franchise agreements.

Wrap Up

We offered thanks to Erica and Amaha to attending today’s session. It was wonderful to have them in person.

ADJOURNMENT:
Rev. Harris moved to adjourn.

**The next meeting will be held on April 17th, 2023, at 5:30 pm in the DATV Conference Room. Please be sure to attend!**

Respectfully submitted,



Jodi Owens, Secretary Randy Phillips, Executive Director

Submitted 10/11/2022 – RP

DATV celebrates 45 years of serving our community in 2023