

**MINUTES**  
**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY COMMISSION**  
**(ITAC)**

**November 16, 2016**

7:30 pm

Arlington Independent Studios (AIM)

Conference Room

2701 Wilson Boulevard

Arlington, VA

1. Meeting Called to Order and Adoption of Agenda – Adopted following vote
2. Tour of AIM Studios
3. Presentation of AIM accomplishments, initiatives and issues by Paul LaValley, AIM Executive Director
  - Formed in 1982 as a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization
  - Originally housed at the former Kann’s Department Store, which is where George Mason University Law School is now located, AIM moved to its current location in 1998. Over the past 16 years, volunteer staff have taken on renovation of the building and construction of studio spaces.
  - In addition to producing more than 18,000 programs for Arlington residents, AIM has trained more than 10,000 people in the art and science of television.
  - AIM has won thirty-one national awards, including recognition for *Overall Excellence for Public Access* ten times.
  - AIM has 800 members who are active in the Arlington community and are closely connected to the physical presence of its facility on N. Danville Street.
  - In addition to covering local events, AIM staff members participate in community organizations, serve on the boards of local non-profits, testify at town meetings while some have graduated from the Leadership Arlington program.
  - An eight-minute video, “The B Side”, which was produced at AIM studios by AIM volunteer staff, was shown.
4. Public Comment – None
5. Approval of Minutes of Prior Meeting (October 2016) – Adopted following vote
6. Administrative and Other Issues:
  - Upcoming Schedule of Meetings:
    - Monday, December 5 @ 7:30 pm in County Board Room – Public Hearing Re: Comcast Franchise Agreement
    - Wednesday, December 7 @ 7:30 pm in County Board Room – ITAC meeting to discuss recommendation to County Board regarding

Comcast Franchise Agreement and related public hearing. (Meeting may take place instead immediately following the public hearing on the 5<sup>th</sup>)

- Tuesday, December 13 @ 7:00 pm in County Board Room – County Board to consider public testimony and vote on proposed Comcast Franchise Agreement
- Wednesday, December 21 @ 7:30 pm in County Board Room – ITAC December Meeting.
- A vote approved a motion to cancel the meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> and approve the meetings on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> (if necessary).
- The Arlington County Board and Arlington County School Board are seeking applicants for a new advisory group, the Joint Facilities Advisory Commission (JFAC)
- Holly Hartell of DTS announced that on Tuesday, November 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm, a presentation and panel discussion regarding the future of mobility in Arlington will be offered to the public in the second of a series of programs entitled “Arlington’s Digital Destiny” at the AUSA Conference and Event Center, located at 2425 Wilson Boulevard. The program will also be broadcast live via Facebook.

#### 7. Regulatory & Legislative Update (Frank Jazzo)

- The chairman noted that due to the change in administration just two months away, Republican leaders have asked the current FCC board to pull all major items from its agenda. Therefore, not much is happening right now.
- House Communications and Technology subcommittee chairman Rep. Greg Walden (R) is said to have an interest in becoming chairman of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, which oversees the FCC.
- The FCC’s 3-2 October decision to protect privacy rules can be reconsidered by the regulatory body following the change in administrations.
- The new administration is less likely to oppose a proposed merger between AT&T and Time Warner. The FCC’s position on net neutrality is likely to change too.

#### 8. Cable Administrator’s Report (Rob Billingsley/Jack Belcher)

- Cable administrator Rob Billingsley announced that he will retire from Arlington County Government on December 30, 2016. DTS staff member George Parr will be taking on the position of Cable Administrator.
- Rob Billingsley said negotiations between Arlington County and Comcast are complete and that final version of the Comcast Franchise Agreement will be made public on Thursday, December 1 in the County Board Office. Rob said he would send drafts to the ITAC

committee members. In the meantime, a resolution that summarizes the agreement would be made available.

- The new agreement is for five years.
- The County will receive 5% of Comcast's revenue for video services
- Public access channels annual capital grants to continue
- Each public access entity to receive high definition channel
- The County will continue access to certain inet links through 2017, while a select few will be retained for five years. Such links include a backbone of 144 strands of fiber that go to a secondary network operating center in case of any kind of catastrophe at 2100 Clarendon Boulevard, which is where the County's main network operating system is located. Finally, where the County's ConnectArlington fiber network has replaced inet links, those sites will be returned to Comcast within 30 days of the ratification of the Agreement - likely mid-January.
- Comcast will continue to provide links to NCR Net, which supports the mutual aid agreements between Arlington and its neighboring jurisdictions for emergency response.