

ATEL Committee Meeting

Public Utilities Commission

September 10, 2015

9:00 am

Attendees:

Denise Corson, Courtenay Petracca, Joe Pereira, Laurie Duffy, Jeanne Panarace, Harry Mancoll, Ken McCarthy and Cart Reporter.

1. Review minutes - minutes were reviewed and accepted, motioned by Courtenay Petracca and seconded by Jeanne Panarace. Per minutes, it was asked the name of the program that OSCIL uses to get free medical equipment - the name of program is Robert J. Allen Medical Equipment Distribution Center. If you are in need of medical equipment or have medical equipment to donate contact: Br. Robert L. Allen at 401-451-0184 or 401-246-0865. You can also email them at rifreemason@rimasons.org. They have free of charge a wide variety of equipment: walkers, canes, wheelchairs, commodes, shower chairs, electric hospital beds, lift chairs, transport chairs and ramps.

2. Legislative update – As of last quarterly meeting, the wireless bill was been held for further study with no feedback on the status; however, the bill did pass in the house on 6/23/15. Denise has been in contact with Representative Naughton, and stated we still need a companion bill in the senate. Representative Naughton informed Denise that she didn't believe the senate was going to meet in the fall, and we would have to most likely start the entire process over in

spring 2016. Ken stated that he didn't believe that the Senate was going to reconvene until next year, but it should just be formality when going through the House. Most likely, we will have to testify again when it reaches the Senate. Denise has been trying to get in touch with Senator Gallo, but she is out of session; she has recently sent correspondence to her home in hopes she will help with the companion bill.

3. Committee Update- Doris Simas and James Litvack's term expired last year, and are unable to attend meeting anymore; therefore, we will be in need of new members. Both were members of the Deaf/HOH Community, but Jeanne Panarace could be moved into one of those positions, so the replacements could be one general public and one member of the Deaf/HOH Community. Harry Mancoll and Ellen Lenox Smith also expired last year, Harry agreed to renew and Denise will be contacting Ellen who was unable to make today's meeting. Courtenay Petracca, Laurie Duffy and Melissa Rosenberg will be expiring on September 30th. Courtenay and Laurie agreed to stay on for another term, and Denise will contact Melissa who was unable to make today's meeting. Ken mentioned he has a contact with Verizon wireless, which would be a great addition, especially if we are able to get wireless devices next year.

4. Open discussion-

- o OSCIL received most of PARI's funding when it closed, and they are now looking for a satellite location, possible at PARI's old location.

- O Denise mentioned they continue to have problems with the Captel 840, due to the phone companies switching from analog to digital

lines. However, Denise mention that Joe has been successful in installing (NIU) Network Interface Unit. However, they are not installing these anymore to the general public just Captel 800/840 clients and they will be eventually phased out.

**5. Next quarterly meetings were scheduled at 9am- 11am at the PUC:
December 10th.**