

MHCRC COMMISSIONER POSITION DESCRIPTION

Mission Statement

The Mt. Hood Cable Regulatory Commission (MHCRC) advocates for and protects the public interest in the regulation and development of cable communications systems in Multnomah County and the Cities of Fairview, Gresham, Portland, Troutdale and Wood Village; monitors and helps resolve cable subscribers' concerns in these jurisdictions; and participates in the planning and implementation of community uses of communications technologies which utilize the public right of way.

Summary of MHCRC Activities

- ◆ Provides consumer protection for citizens and subscribers in cable television matters, including complaint resolution.
- ◆ Directs the Community Grants program, which includes two funding opportunities: An annual Community Technology competitive grant round (allocation about \$800,000 annually) and the TechSmart Initiative for Student Success (rolling grants to school districts over 10 years - about \$19 million total). Grant recipients include libraries, schools, local governments and non-profit community organizations.
- ◆ Facilitates the Institutional Network (I-Net) partnership and the related \$500,000 annual I-Net fund to provide reliable and affordable fiber connectivity and network resources for local public institutions such as schools, libraries and public agencies.
- ◆ Enforces cable company compliance with franchise agreements.
- ◆ Conducts franchise negotiations, renewals and transfers of ownership.
- ◆ Funds and monitors two community media organizations (total combined budgets of over \$4 million annually).
- ◆ Advocates at the local, state and federal levels to protect local interests and control in communications policy and right of way management.

Primary Responsibilities of Commissioners

- ◆ Oversees financial matters of the Commission, including development of an annual fund budget for recommendation to the member jurisdictions.
- ◆ Serves as the grantmaking body for the MHCRC Community Grants funding opportunities.
- ◆ Attends Commission meetings (about 8 per year) and participates on committees.
- ◆ Provides regular reports and liaison to elected officials of appointing jurisdiction.
- ◆ Keeps informed and educated about issues related to Commission activities.

Time Commitment

The full Commission generally meets the third Monday of the month at 6:30 pm, about eight times per year. The meeting location generally alternates between Open Signal (formerly Portland Community Media) in northeast Portland and MetroEast Community Media in Gresham. MHCRC committees choose their meeting times and dates as necessary. Commission members are expected to take the necessary time to study pre-meeting materials, to evaluate grant applications, to serve on at least one committee and to participate in meetings with the elected officials of their jurisdiction.

Other MHCRC Facts

- ◆ Comprised of eight volunteer community members appointed by the city councils and the county commission.
- ◆ Oversees an annual fund budget of about \$12 million, including an operating budget of about \$924,000.
- ◆ Contracts with the City of Portland for staff support (4 FTE) plus administrative and financial services.
- ◆ Regulates cable services franchise agreements with Comcast, Frontier, CenturyLink, and Reliance Connects, serving about 160,000 cable subscribers.
- ◆ Assisted in the resolution of about 357 cable subscriber complaints in 2016.
- ◆ Supports two community media organizations: Open Signal (formerly Portland Community Media) and MetroEast Community Media.

Further Information

Contact 503.823.5385 or visit the MHCRC website at www.mhcr.org

