

COMARA Board Meeting Minutes
May 7, 2024

Attendees (held virtually, via Zoom):

Maury Mechanick	David Lee
Kim Baumgartner	Richard Rankin
Roger Cochetti	Geza Serenyi
Denis Curtin	
Dan DiFonzo	

Adoption of Agenda/Approval of Minutes

Following adoption of the agenda, the Board approved the Minutes for the January 23, 2024 meeting.

Treasurer's Report and Membership Update

The Treasurer's Report covered the time period from January 23, 2024 through May 6, 2024. Expenses for 2024 year to date came to \$3056 (web development expenses; P.O. Box rental; and Word Press/Constant Contact fee) and income came to \$270, reflecting dues payments for 12 members. The value of the COMARA Fidelity account was \$57,802 and total assets were \$64,189, including bank balance, Paypal balance and the Fidelity account.

LMCO Benefits

No issues regarding LMCO benefits were noted.

Website and Web Hosting Arrangements.

The improvements intended to improve the ability of members to access and use the website and for website administrators to update and manage the website have been made.

Status of the I Remember COMSAT Project and Wikipedia Update and Preservation of Labs Building

Work on first edition of the I Remember COMSAT Project and updates to Wikipedia entry for COMSAT Corporation and creation of a Wikipedia entry for COMSAT Labs is ongoing. COMARA is continuing to interface with Montgomery County planning officials to provide additional information to them on the historic significant of the research conducted at COMSAT Labs with respect to the development of the satellite industry as well as other technological developments in the telecommunications arena.

Social Activities for 2024

Given the success of the most recent First Wednesday of December event, the Board felt there was strong interest continuing the event in future years. Additionally, COMARA will again join with the Intelsat Retirees and Alumni Association (IRAA) in jointly sponsoring the annual picnic to be held on May 19, 2024, and will conduct a virtual annual meeting in the September timeframe. Further consideration will be given over the course of the year to whether there is sufficient membership interest in attending an in person annual meeting as well; given the level of attendance at the most recent in person annual meeting, it is beginning to appear as though this is not viewed as an event of importance to the membership, particularly given the option of attending and participating in a virtual annual meeting as well.

Satellite Gallery at the National Electronics Museum Project

No further updated information available at this time.

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The next Board meeting will take place on Tuesday, August 13, 2024 at 11:30 am. [Note: meeting rescheduled from original date of July 23, 2024.]

The meeting adjourned about 12:30 pm.

Submitted by: Maury Mechanick