



GREATER WEST BLOOMFIELD CABLE COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

KEEGO HARBOR • ORCHARD LAKE • SYLVAN LAKE • WEST BLOOMFIELD

MINUTES

March 8, 2018

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the Chairperson, Harvey Gersin, at 7:31PM at West Bloomfield Town Hall.

2. Roll Call

Members Present:

Representing Keego Harbor: Michael Grogan

Representing Orchard Lake: Anne Dziuba, Dan Krause

Representing Sylvan Lake: Matthew Benavides, Sharon Miller

Representing West Bloomfield: Harvey Gersin, Nada Jamoua, Mark Kowalsky,
Suzanne Levine, Deborah Macon (arrived at 7:40PM),
Jonathan Warshay

Others in Attendance:

David Barash, Dave Scott (General Manager, Civic Center TV and WBLD), David Albery (Executive Director, GWBCCC)

The Executive Director stated material in addition to that delivered earlier in the week, including a revised agenda, had been provided for commissioners at the dais.

3. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Mr. Warshay, support from Mr. Krause:

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission approve the agenda as provided for the March 8, 2018 meeting.”

Voting YES: Benavides, Dziuba, Gersin, Grogan, Jamoua, Kowalsky, Krause, Levine,
Miller, Warshay

Voting NO:

The motion carried.

4. Public Comment

The Chairperson stated that residents are provided an opportunity to address the Commission regarding cable-related issues at the beginning and the end of each meeting. Those unable to attend should contact the Commission at gwbcable.org.

No member of the public rose to address the Commission.

5. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Krause suggested a correction to the Minutes of the February 12 meeting noting how often the West Bloomfield and Oakland County amateur radio clubs are holding meetings and activities on Saturday mornings.

Motion by Mr. Krause, support from Mr. Kowalsky:

“That the Minutes of the February 12, 2018 meeting be approved as corrected and the Minutes of the March 5, 2018 joint meeting be approved as presented.”

Voting YES: Benavides, Dziuba, Gersin, Grogan, Jamoua, Kowalsky, Krause, Levine,
Miller, Warshay

Voting NO:

The motion carried.

6. Acceptance of Financial Reports

The report for the first two months of 2018 and the final report for 2017 were summarized by Mr. Grogan, the Commission’s Treasurer. The Executive Director presented the summary of cable operator payments for the fourth quarter of 2017.

In response to question from Mr. Kowalsky, the Executive Director stated he has no explanation for the fact that within the total picture of reduced revenue, there are some increases for individual communities in certain months and added that he is neither completely optimistic or pessimistic regarding future revenue.

Motion by Mr. Warshay, support from Ms. Jamoua:

“That the Financial Reports be accepted.”

Voting YES: Benavides, Dziuba, Gersin, Grogan, Jamoua, Kowalsky, Krause, Levine,
Miller, Warshay

Voting NO:

The motion carried.

Mrs. Macon arrived at 7:40PM.

7. Committee Reports

The Chairperson stated that this portion of the agenda provides an opportunity for committees to report to the Commission.

Report of the Commission Operations and Strategic Planning Committee

Commissioners were provided a written report which was summarized by Mr. Kowalsky, the committee chairperson.

Committee Recommendations:

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission amend Article 7 of its bylaws as recommended by the Commission Operations and Strategic Planning Committee.”

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission approve the revised Third Amendment to the Intergovernmental Agreement and recommend its approval by the four communities.”

Mrs. Macon stated her feeling that the proposal to amend the bylaws and limit each commissioner to one or two committee appointments is the result of an increased level of interest and engagement of members compared to the past and that this change will result in greater engagement by more commissioners. She added that all commissioners are invited to attend and participate in all committee meetings. Mr. Kowalsky and the Chairperson indicated their agreement with Mrs. Macon’s comments, and the Executive Director stated that every committee meeting is posted under the provisions of the Michigan Open Meetings Act and is open to the public.

Report of the Community Programming Committee

Commissioners were provided a written report which was summarized by Mrs. Dziuba, the committee chairperson.

Motion by Mr. Warshay, support from Ms. Levine:

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission accept the reports of the Commission Operations and Strategic Planning and Community Programming committees and consider committee recommendations under New Business later in this meeting.”

Voting YES: Benavides, Dziuba, Gersin, Grogan, Jamoua, Kowalsky, Krause, Levine,
Macon, Miller, Warshay

Voting NO:

The motion carried.

8. Executive Director's Report

Civic Center TV

Mr. Scott addressed the Commission regarding the operation of Civic Center TV and WBLD, focusing on the new monument sign in front of Green Media Center, the new Township Talk program on CCT, upgrades to Cinegy, the media asset management system at GMC, the addition of another edit station, upgraded streaming servers, and reorganization of Splash content in the on-demand section of the CCT web site. He commended the efforts of CCT staff, specifically Dave Glaeser, John Atwater, and Tyler Kieft, in implementing the changes.

He reported that several West Bloomfield High School students won awards on March 7 at the Michigan Association of Broadcasters convention and added that he has been invited to be involved in planning for the new telecommunications facilities to be constructed at the high school, facilities which hopefully will increase the involvement of students in the operation of the district's television and radio outlets. He also reported the development of a new jazz program hosted by high school students on WBLD.

Mr. Scott stated that May, the busiest month of the year for Civic Center TV, is right around the corner and that planning is underway for multiple events, including the Michigan Week Community Awards Breakfast, the Chamber Awards dinner, and the Police Memorial. He added that there will be another community event, a food truck rally, in early June and that Civic Center TV and WBLD will be involved.

Cable Operators

Commissioners were provided copies of a letter from Comcast regarding channel line-up changes.

Sunshine Week 2018

West Bloomfield, Keego Harbor, and Sylvan Lake adopted the resolution in support of Sunshine Week as recommended by the Commission. Mrs. Dziuba and Mrs. Macon will be interviewed regarding this celebration of open and transparent government on "The Splash" on March 12.

Cable Industry News

At the end of 2017, streaming services had 5.3 million subscribers in the U.S. SlingTV was number one, followed by DirecTV Now, Playstation Vue, and You Tube. Nine percent of streaming subscribers had never subscribed to cable, 54 percent had dropped cable service, and 37 percent subscribe to both. Streaming services gain subscribers primarily from those who are switching from other streaming services.

Mr. Kowalsky pointed out that many subscribe to a streaming service to watch one specific program and drop the service once the show ends, and Mr. Warshay expressed his surprise that Netflix is not in the top four.

The cable industry lost 164 thousand subscribers in the fourth quarter of 2017, fewer than the 367 thousand lost in the third quarter but more than the 105 thousand lost in the fourth quarter of 2016. Telephone company video services (such as AT&T's U-verse) lost 128 thousand subscribers in the fourth quarter of 2017 and 328 thousand in the same quarter a year earlier. Satellite subscription are dropping dramatically, 23 thousand in the fourth quarter of 2016 and 268 thousand a year later.

For the eighteenth year in a row, ESPN leads all other services in perceived value to cable operators. They value the service at 99 cents a month, although they are paying much more. Fox News is number two, valued at 85 cents a month.

The Consumer Protection Division of the Michigan Attorney General's office reports that telecommunications companies and cable and satellite TV ranked third in the number of complaints it received in 2017, behind credit and financial companies and personal service providers.

Communication

No communication was received.

Commission Assistance to Residents

The Commission assisted in the resolution of a concern communicated by a Greater West resident who was being charged for a cable modem which he had purchased. Comcast removed the charge, which occurred because the company retired the modem and the subscriber then purchased it via Amazon from the company hired to retire it.

The Commission also assisted another resident who agreed to a promotional offer which included a free DVR. Comcast was charging for the DVR but dropped the charge after contacting the subscriber.

Preview

The Executive Director presented his agenda for the time period between this meeting and the next. He added that all commissioners will be invited to next meeting of the Greater West Bloomfield Clergy Association and Community Forum, which the Commission is hosting at Green Media Center at 12NOON on Thursday, April 5.

Discussion of the assistance provided to residents focused on the willingness of Comcast to resolve issues and the fact that such assistance is an important service the Commission provides to the community.

9. Unfinished Business

No items of Unfinished Business were presented.

10. New Business

Recommendation of the Commission Operations and Strategic Planning Committee – Amendment to GWBCCC Bylaws

The Chairperson presented the recommendation and stated that the Commission's bylaws require that any amendment to the bylaws be presented at a meeting and then considered for approval at the next.

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission amend Article 7 of its bylaws as recommended by the Commission Operations and Strategic Planning Committee.”

At the invitation of the Chairperson, the Executive Director read the amendment, and the Chairperson declared that presentation to be the first reading of the amendment, which will be considered by the Commission at its next meeting on April 12.

Recommendation of the Commission Operations and Strategic Planning Committee – Third Amendment to Intergovernmental Agreement

The Chairperson presented the recommendation.

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission approve the revised Third Amendment to the Intergovernmental Agreement and recommend its approval by the four communities.”

Motion by Mr. Kowalsky, support from Mr. Warshay:

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission approve the revised Third Amendment to the Intergovernmental Agreement and recommend its approval by the four communities.”

Mr. Warshay stated his belief that the language added to the revised proposal is appropriate and should answer any questions regarding the purpose of the amendment. He thanked the Executive Director and counsel for the revision.

Voting YES: Benavides, Dziuba, Gersin, Grogan, Jamoua, Kowalsky, Krause, Levine,
Macon, Miller, Warshay

Voting NO:

The motion carried.

11. Public Comment

The Chairperson stated that residents are provided an opportunity to address the Commission regarding cable-related issues at the beginning and the end of each meeting.

No member of the public rose to address the Commission.

12. Commissioner Comments

Mr. Krause stated that the local amateur radio clubs are continuing to encourage involvement by young people.

Ms. Jamoua stated that March is National Women's History Month.

Ms. Levine reported that the Chamber of Commerce has launched the Next Big Thing, Big meaning "Business Innovation Generator", an initiative supporting entrepreneurs and small businesses. She added that the twelfth annual Chamber Awards Dinner will occur on May 15.

Mrs. Macon mentioned two recent community events, a concert at Holy Spirit Lutheran Church in memory of Mary Freed and an Optimist Club presentation by Civic Center TV's Sheena Monnin. She also echoed the previous mention of the Clergy Association and Community Forum on April 5 and stated that the annual Michigan Week Community Awards Breakfast will occur on May 18.

The Chairperson thanked those commissioners who have not been appointed to committees but still attend those meetings.

Mr. Warshay thanked those watching the meeting at home for tuning in.

Mrs. Dziuba reminded all commissioners of the birthday celebration for the Chairperson following the meeting.

Ms. Levine commended a 2014 West Bloomfield High School graduate for his appearance in a music video.

13. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by the Chairperson at 8:32PM.

The next meeting of the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission is **THURSDAY, APRIL 12, 2018, at 7:30PM at WEST BLOOMFIELD TOWN HALL, 4550 Walnut Lake Road, West Bloomfield, Michigan.**