



GREATER WEST BLOOMFIELD CABLE COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

KEEGO HARBOR • ORCHARD LAKE • SYLVAN LAKE • WEST BLOOMFIELD

MINUTES

May 10, 2018

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the Chairperson, Harvey Gersin, at 7:30PM at West Bloomfield Town Hall.

2. Roll Call

Members Present:

Representing Keego Harbor: Ronnie Dahl, 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 7:34PM),
Jonathan Warshay

Others in Attendance:

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

Mrs. Macon arrived at 7:34PM.

The Chairperson welcomed Ronnie Dahl to her first meeting after being appointed to the Commission by the Keego Harbor City Council. She introduced herself to the Commission, and commissioners introduced themselves to her.

3. Approval of Agenda

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

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission approve the agenda as provided for the May 10, 2018 meeting.”

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

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

“That the Minutes of the April 12, 2018 meeting be approved as presented.”

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

Voting NO:

The motion carried.

6. Acceptance of Financial Report

The report was summarized by Mr. Grogan, the Commission’s Treasurer.

Motion by Mrs. Dziuba, support from Ms. Levine:

“That the Financial Report be accepted.”

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

Voting NO:

The motion carried.

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 Community Programming Committee

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

Mrs. Macon stated that she recommended that the Commission purchase the open meetings publication from the Michigan Association of School Boards because it is written in easily understandable language, and she added that MASB is conducting a workshop on the Open

Meetings Act in August.

Mr. Warshay suggested that the Commission involve Ms. Dahl in the broadcast journalism seminar for Civic Center TV staff being planned by Mr. Gersin and Ms. Levine.

Report of the Commission Operations and Strategic Planning Committee

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

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

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission accept the reports of the Commission Operations and Strategic Planning and Community Programming committees.”

Voting YES: Benavides, Dahl, 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 very busy production schedule in May, on-line viewership of CCT programming, substantially through mobile devices, and the great work being done by CCT staff.

Ms. Levine thanked Civic Center TV for its annual coverage of the Chamber Awards Dinner.

Cable Operators

Commissioners were provided copies of communications from Comcast regarding channel line-up changes. The Executive Director added that Mrs. Macon had referred a question from a resident regarding one of the changes, the loss of the PBS station in Flint.

Third Amendment to Intergovernmental Agreement

The amendment was approved by all four communities, and the Commission Operations and Strategic Planning Committee will now work with counsel to develop a structure for the generation of supplemental revenue

GWBCCC Directory

Members were provided an updated directory of Commission membership, contractors, and committee assignments.

Cable Industry News

A research study has found that streaming revenue was up 41 percent from 2016 to 2017 and is expected to grow another 40 percent from 2017 to this year. Pay TV revenue dropped 1 percent in 2017 and is expected to drop another percent or slightly less this year. The number of homes without a pay TV subscription has grown from 22.6 percent in 2016 to 26.1 percent in 2018 to 29.6 percent this year.

The hours spent watching streaming video in North America increased 174 percent from 2016 to 2017.

The Parents Television Council has stated that in order to gain approval its purchase of Time Warner, AT&T should be forced to commit to offering its video services individually, not in packages.

Comcast and Netflix have created a partnership that gives subscribers access to the streaming service through the company's X1 platform, which is the number one way that Netflix viewers access its service. The cost is included in the Comcast bill.

Radio reaches more consumers each week (93% of Americans) than any other communications medium, including television, smartphones, tablets, and computers.

Communication

No communications were received.

Commission Assistance to Residents

The assistance provided to residents by the Commission sometimes involves advice and counsel rather than intervention with the cable operator.

A recent inquiry involved defective remote control units. After discussion of alternatives, the resident decided to go to the Xfinity Store in Troy to resolve the problem.

Another inquiry was referred to Comcast. It involved a West Bloomfield resident who established an account in Ann Arbor for her son who attends the University of Michigan. When the school year ended in late April, she was told that she would be forced to pay a termination penalty. She was contacted by Comcast after the Commission's referral, and the penalty was waived.

Preview

The Executive Director presented his agenda for the time period between this meeting and the next.

Mrs. Macon suggested that articles mentioned in his report of Cable Industry News be provided to commissioners, and she reported a very positive customer service experience at the Xfinity Store.

Mr. Kowalsky suggested that Mrs. Macon take a look at multichannel.com for cable industry news.

9. Unfinished Business

No items of Unfinished Business were presented.

10. New Business

Committee Appointments

The Chairman stated that following the amendment of the Commission's bylaws approved by the Commission in April, he asked commissioners to provide their preferences regarding committee assignments. Based on those responses, he prepared a memo outlining his appointments, subject to Commission approval, of committee members and designating the chairperson and vice-chairperson for each.

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

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission approve the committee appointments submitted by the Chairperson”.

Mrs. Macon pointed out that any commissioner may attend any committee meeting and contribute but may not vote. Mrs. Dziuba clarified that committees votes on recommendations for final approval by the entire commission.

Voting YES: Benavides, Dahl, 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 mentioned the Maker Faire at The Henry Ford in Dearborn in late July. He also mentioned security training provided by the police department and the possibility of Civic Center TV coverage.

Ms. Levin thanked Ms. Miller for her presentation to the Chamber of Commerce and mentioned the Health Fair at West Bloomfield Town Hall of June 28.

Mrs. Macon mentioned the Charity Cakes event at Orchard Lake Middle School on May 12, the letter carrier food drive on the same day, events in Keego Harbor, Sylvan Lake, and West Bloomfield on Memorial Day, and a community garage sale in late May. She added that the Michigan Week Breakfast is sold out.

She asked that the Commission undertake a comprehensive review of its bylaws to ensure that they are aligned with the Commission's strategic plan.

In response to a question from Mrs. Dziuba, Mrs. Macon stated that tickets for the Charity Cakes event can be purchased at the door.

Mr. Warshay stated that both Comcast and AT&T offer subscribers the opportunity to return equipment through any UPS store, with free packing and shipping. He also mentioned Civic Center TV coverage of two community events over the past weekend.

He added that since he has dropped AT&T service, he is donating his support for PEG to the Commission directly.

Ms. Miller noted the Sylvan Lake City-Wide Garage Sale in late May and the Memorial Day parade and ceremony in the city.

Ms. Dahl also noted the Keego Harbor Memorial Day parade.

13. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by the Chairperson at 8:37PM.

The next meeting of the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission is **THURSDAY, JUNE 14, 2018, at 7:30PM at WEST BLOOMFIELD TOWN HALL, 4550 Walnut Lake Road, West Bloomfield, Michigan.**