



# GREATER WEST BLOOMFIELD CABLE COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

KEEGO HARBOR • ORCHARD LAKE • SYLVAN LAKE • WEST BLOOMFIELD

## MINUTES

November 29, 2018

### 1. Call to Order

In the absence of the Chairperson, the meeting was called to order by the Secretary, Mrs. Dziuba, 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: Phil Ross  
Representing West Bloomfield: Mark Kowalsky, Suzanne Levine, Deborah Macon,  
Jonathan Warshay

#### Members Absent:

Representing Sylvan Lake: Matthew Benavides  
Representing West Bloomfield: Harvey Gersin, Nada Jamoua

#### Others in Attendance:

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

The Executive Director stated that Ms. Jamoua, Mr. Benavides, and Mr. Gersin had communicated their inability to attend the meeting. He added that material in addition to that delivered earlier in the week, including a revised agenda, had been provided for commissioners at the dais.

At Mrs. Dziuba's invitation, Mr. Ross, newly appointed to the Commission by the Sylvan Lake City Council, introduced himself, and commissioners introduced themselves to him.

Mr. Scott stated that he has had a long acquaintance with Mr. Ross and that the Commission is very fortunate to have him on board.

### **3. Approval of Agenda**

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

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission approve the agenda as revised for the November 29, 2018 meeting.”

Voting YES: Dahl, Dziuba, Grogan, Kowalsky, Krause, Levine, Macon, Ross, Warshay

Voting NO:

The motion carried.

### **4. Public Comment**

Mrs. Dziuba asked two students in attendance, Whitney and McKenna, to introduce themselves. She stated that they are at the meeting to fulfill a class assignment.

### **5. Approval of Minutes**

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

“That the Minutes of the October 11, 2018 meeting be approved as presented.”

Voting YES: Dahl, Dziuba, Grogan, Kowalsky, Krause, Levine, Macon, Ross, Warshay

Voting NO:

The motion carried.

### **6. Acceptance of Financial Reports**

The report for January through November was summarized by Mr. Grogan, the Commission's Treasurer. The Executive Director presented the report of revenue from cable operators for the third quarter of 2018.

In response to a question from Mr. Kowalsky, the Executive Director stated that the report includes third quarter 2017 revenue for each community but not an aggregated figure. He added that AT&T revenue is decreasing while Comcast is increasing, but whether that situation continues is unknown.

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

“That the Financial Reports be accepted.”

Voting YES: Dahl, Dziuba, Grogan, Kowalsky, Krause, Levine, Macon, Ross, 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 Commission Operations and Strategic Planning Committee

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

Committee Recommendation:

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission approve its 2019 Executive Director Independent Contractor Agreement with Cable Commission Consulting, LLC.”

### Report of the Community Programming Committee

Commissioners were provided a written report which was presented by Mrs. Dziuba, the committee chairperson. She noted a number of revisions to the 2018 programming services agreement resulting in the 2019 agreement which the committee is recommending for approval.

Committee Recommendation:

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission approve its 2019 Cable Television Local Government Programming Services Independent Contractor Agreement with Motown Digital.”

### Report of the Finance Committee

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

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

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

Voting YES: Dahl, Dziuba, Grogan, Kowalsky, Krause, Levine, Macon, Ross, Warshay  
Voting NO:

The motion carried.

## **8. Executive Director's Report**

### Civic Center TV

Commissioners were provided a report of programming produced for Civic Center TV in November.

Mr. Scott addressed the Commission regarding his presentation to the Cable Community Panel on November 28 and the opportunity to interact with the members, CCT viewership as measured by web metrics, high school football coverage on WBLD, CCT involvement in the Veterans' Day breakfast at Orchard Mall. He also mentioned the new monument sign in front of Green Media Center, the new host of "The Splash", Brooke Allen, and holiday hours at GMC.

In response to a question from Mrs. Dziuba, Mr. Scott stated that radio and television broadcast rights for high school athletics are controlled by the Michigan High School Athletic Association and that WBTW, being operated professionally and not by students, is not authorized to provide coverage. The Executive Director added that student production teams in Lake Orion and Clarkston do provide tape-delayed video coverage of home football games.

### Cable Operators

Commissioners were provided copies of communications from Comcast regarding channel line-up changes and rate increases effective January 1, 2019.

### GWBCCC Directory

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

### Election of Officers

Pursuant to the its bylaws, the Commission will elect its officers for 2019 at the January 10 meeting. In advance of that meeting, a summary of commissioners' interest in serving will be provided.

### Cable Industry News

Between the first quarter of 2017 and the first quarter of 2018, one-third of all pay TV subscribers made changes to their service. Fifteen percent downgraded, ten percent upgraded, and five percent re-subscribed after going without service for a year or more.

The CEO of Comcast-owned NBC Universal has stated that the growth of streaming services is flattening. DirecTV Now, owned by AT&T, added 342 thousand subscribers in the second quarter of 2018 and just 49 thousand in the third quarter.

AT&T is moving away from wire-line cable (U-Verse) and satellite service (DirecTV) and wants to be providing all services via streaming by 2020. Because of lack of high-speed internet, rural subscribers will be most affected.

#### Communication

No communication was received.

#### Commission Assistance to Residents

The Commission has always dealt with unburied cable situations, the last several months being no exception.

Another recent inquiry involved intermittent service, and the advice provided to subscribers is to make sure the operator checks the residential drop, service from the pole or pedestal to the home and to make sure all services are working before the technician leaves the premises after a service call.

#### Preview

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

Mrs. Macon suggested that the Commission find a way to communicate the advice communicated to subscribers regarding intermittent service to all residents.

In response to a question from Ms. Dahl regarding the role of social media in publicizing events and securing video, Mr. Scott stated that the Community Programming Committee has discussed and will discuss the possibility of new initiatives in that area. Mr. Krause added that nextdoor.com may be another useful avenue.

### **9. Unfinished Business**

No items of Unfinished Business were presented.

### **10. New Business**

#### Recommendation of the Commission Operations and Strategic Planning Committee – 2019 Executive Director Independent Contractor Agreement

Mrs. Dziuba presented the recommendation.

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission approve its 2019 Executive Director Independent Contractor Agreement with Cable Commission Consulting, LLC.”

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

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission approve its 2019 Executive Director Independent Contractor Agreement with Cable Commission Consulting, LLC.”

Voting YES: Dahl, Dziuba, Grogan, Kowalsky, Krause, Levine, Macon, Ross, Warshay

Voting NO:

The motion carried.

Recommendation of the Community Programming Committee – 2019 Cable Television Local Government Programming Services Independent Contractor Agreement

Mrs. Dziuba presented the recommendation.

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission approve its 2019 Cable Television Local Government Programming Services Independent Contractor Agreement with Motown Digital.”

Motion by Mr. Ross, support from Mrs. Macon:

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission approve its 2019 Cable Television Local Government Programming Services Independent Contractor Agreement with Motown Digital.”

Voting YES: Dahl, Dziuba, Grogan, Kowalsky, Krause, Levine, Macon, Ross, Warshay

Voting NO:

The motion carried.

## **11. Public Comment**

In response to a question from one of the students attending the meeting, Mrs. Dziuba stated that the composition of the Commission (6 commissioners from West Bloomfield, 2 from each of the cities) and the sharing of officer positions (one from each community) have been in the bylaws from the beginning in 1985. The Executive Director added that funding belongs to the communities, which receive it from the cable operators, and the Commission receives annual authorization to expend those funds to support its budget.

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.

## **12. Commissioner Comments**

Mrs. Dziuba thanked Mr. Ross's predecessor, Sharon Miller, for her service to Commission as a representative from Sylvan Lake.

Mrs. Macon stated that she, with an assist from the Executive Director, will conduct a session regarding building boards and commissions at the Great Lakes Media Show in early March in Lansing. She suggested commissioners may be interested in attending as a professional development opportunity.

Ms. Levine stated that the Chamber of Commerce will induct its new officers on January 11, 2019.

Mr. Warshay commended those involved in organizing the Veterans Day event at Orchard Mall.

Mr. Grogan stated that Comcast is adding Amazon Prime to its X1 service and added that Prime includes every possible film and TV program.

Mrs. Dziuba, on behalf of Chairperson Harvey Gersin, thanked all commissioners for their attendance and participation at Commission and committee meetings in 2018.

## **13. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned by Mrs. Dziuba at 8:43PM.

The next meeting of the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission is **THURSDAY, JANUARY 10, 2019, at 7:30PM** at **WEST BLOOMFIELD TOWN HALL**, 4550 Walnut Lake Road, West Bloomfield, Michigan.