



GREATER WEST BLOOMFIELD
**CABLE COMMUNICATIONS
COMMISSION**

KEEGO HARBOR • ORCHARD LAKE • SYLVAN LAKE • WEST BLOOMFIELD

MINUTES

January 10, 2019

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the Chairperson, Harvey Gersin, at 7:33PM at West Bloomfield Town Hall.

2. Roll Call

Members Present:

Representing Keego Harbor: Ronnie Dahl

Representing Orchard Lake: Anne Dziuba, Dan Krause

Representing Sylvan Lake: Matthew Benavides, Phil Ross

Representing West Bloomfield: Harvey Gersin, Nada Jamoua, Mark Kowalsky,
Suzanne Levine, Deborah Macon, Jonathan Warshay

Members Absent:

Representing Keego Harbor: Michael Grogan

Others in Attendance:

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

The Executive Director stated that Mr. Grogan had communicated his 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.

3. Election of Officers

The Chairperson stated that the Commission's bylaws require that officers be elected at the first regularly scheduled meeting each year and that the four officers represent the four communities. A summary of Commissioners' interest in serving in an officer position was provided, indicating the possibility of electing a slate consisting of Harvey Gersin, representing West Bloomfield, as Chairperson, Anne Dziuba, representing Orchard Lake, as Vice-Chairperson, Matthew Benavides, representing Sylvan Lake, as Secretary, and Michael Grogan, representing Keego Harbor, as Treasurer. The Executive Director added that Mr. Benavides' interest in the position of Secretary is an addition to the summary provided to commissioners. The Chairperson stated that this slate includes the 2018 officers, two of them in different roles.

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

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission elect the slate of officers for 2019 as outlined by the Chairperson.”

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

Voting NO:

The motion carried.

The Chairperson, speaking on behalf of the elected officers, thanked commissioners for their support and stated that they are looking forward to a very productive 2019.

4. Approval of Agenda

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

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission approve the agenda as revised for the January 10, 2019 meeting.”

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

Voting NO:

The motion carried.

5. 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.

Mrs. Macon stated that she and Mr. Warshay, representing United We Walk, would like to make a presentation in honor of the Commission. She spoke regarding the support provided to United We Walk over the years by the Commission and Civic Center TV, focusing on annual live coverage of the event, furthering local knowledge of the four communities' commitment to the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Mr. Warshay added that coverage now includes feature pieces presented at the event and that CCT staff have been deeply involved in the planning process. He invited everyone to attend the 2019 event on Sunday, January 20, at 2:30PM, at West Bloomfield High School. Commissioners then gathered for a photo memorializing the presentation of certificates to the Commission from United We Walk.

The Chairperson thanked Mrs. Macon and Mr. Warshay for the recognition.

The Executive Director noted that David Barash, newly appointed member of the West Bloomfield Parks and Recreation Commission, was in attendance at the meeting.

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6. Approval of Minutes

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

“That the Minutes of the November 29, 2018 meeting and the January 8, 2019 Joint Meeting be approved as presented.”

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

Voting NO:

The motion carried.

7. Acceptance of Financial Report

In the absence of Mr. Grogan, the Commission’s Treasurer, the report was summarized by the Executive Director. He stated that the report is not the final report for 2018, with a few more payments for the year to be processed in January. The final report should be ready by the Commission’s February 14 meeting.

In response to a question from Mr. Warshay, the Executive Director confirmed that the Commission underspent revenue in 2018, adding about \$40,000 to fund equity and stated that, with declining revenues, this may be the last year that happens.

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

“That the Financial Report be accepted.”

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

Voting NO:

The motion carried.

8. 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.

Report of the Community Programming Committee

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

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Motion by Mr. Krause, 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, Dahl, Dziuba, Gersin, Jamoua, Kowalsky, Krause, Levine, Macon, Ross, Warshay

Voting NO:

The motion carried.

9. Executive Director's Report

Civic Center TV

Mr. Scott addressed the Commission regarding the operation of CCT and WBLD, focusing on the availability of the Commission's communications resources to organizations and institutions in the community, yard signs to promote those resources, and upcoming live radio broadcasts of the Chamber of Commerce installation of officers and United We Walk, as well as the Michigan Week breakfast and Food Truck Rally on the spring. He added that civiccentertv.com attracted over 14 thousand visitors in 2018, that the initial Township Board meeting simulcast on December 17 was a success, that the Commission will be involved in the planning process for the new West Bloomfield fiber optic wide-area network, and that he has been informed that within the next 18 months, the FCC will provide an opportunity for radio stations, including WBLD, to upgrade their coverage.

Mrs. Macon suggested that commissioners place a CCT and WBLD sign in their yards. Mr. Krause stated that drilling small hole in the ground will make that placement easier, and Mrs. Dziuba mentioned that vehicle decals and magnets are also available.

Cable Operators

Commissioners were provided copies of two communications from Comcast.

Cable Industry News

A cable industry analyst is predicting that cord-cutting will accelerate in 2019 due to improved quality, DVR capability, the availability of more free advertising-supported services, and lower priced devices, such as smart TVs, to receive streaming content. In addition, streaming providers are adding live sports and promoting and publicizing their products.

Many subscribers are dropping cable for streaming services because the average cable subscriber views less than one-tenth of one percent of all the content available.

In addition, 5G technology will make wireless streaming even more attractive.

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Communication

No communication was received.

Commission Assistance to Residents

The Commission worked with an Orchard Lake resident and Comcast to raise an aerial cable which had dropped to the ground between poles in the resident's back yard.

The Commission also assisted a subscriber who stopped receiving paper bills even though he had not chosen electronic billing. The company provided previous bills on paper, and the account was brought up-to-date.

Preview

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

The Chairperson stated that a directory of commissioners is included on the Commission web site, and the Executive Director added that he will be working with each commissioner to develop short bios for that page.

10. Unfinished Business

No items of Unfinished Business were presented.

11. New Business

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

The Chairman presented the recommendation, explained the document provided to commissioners, and reminded them that, pursuant to the bylaws, this evening's consideration is the first reading of the proposed amendments, with final consideration scheduled for the next commission meeting on February 14, 2019. He invited commissioners to pose any questions regarding the amendments to Mr. Kowalsky or the Executive Director at this meeting or to the Executive Director between now and February 14. No questions were presented.

Resolution in Support of Sunshine Week 2019

The Chairperson presented the resolution and asked the Executive Director to read it into the record.

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

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission approve the resolution in support of Sunshine Week 2019 as presented.”

Mrs. Macon suggested that the resolution be made publicly available and its approval publicized.

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

Voting NO:

The motion carried.

12. 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.

13. Commissioner Comments

Ms. Levine stated that the Chamber of Commerce will install its 2019 officers on January 11, with live broadcast on WBLD and recorded coverage for Civic Center TV.

Mrs. Macon stated that the Clergy Association and Community Forum recently focused its discussion on personal and community safety and that she reported the Commission’s efforts in that area. She also mentioned the West Bloomfield Educational Foundation Casino Night on February 8.

In response to her stated desire for a wider coverage area for WBLD, Mr. Scott stated that the station is always available via streaming.

Mrs. Macon presented to each commissioner the 2019 emergency preparedness calendar. She added that the information is provided on-line.

Mr. Ross reported an upcoming event at Temple Shir Shalom, a chicken soup cook-off on January 27.

Mr. Warshay wished everyone a happy new year and reminded commissioners of United We Walk on January 27 at West Bloomfield High School.

14. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by the Chairperson at 8:31PM.

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The next meeting of the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission is **THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2019**, at **7:30PM** at **WEST BLOOMFIELD TOWN HALL**, 4550 Walnut Lake Road, West Bloomfield, Michigan.