



GREATER WEST BLOOMFIELD CABLE COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

KEEGO HARBOR • ORCHARD LAKE • SYLVAN LAKE • WEST BLOOMFIELD

MINUTES

February 14, 2019

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: Dan Krause
Representing Sylvan Lake: Phil Ross
Representing West Bloomfield: Harvey Gersin, Nada Jamoua,
Mark Kowalsky (left at 8:05PM), Suzanne Levine,
Deborah Macon, Jonathan Warshay

Members Absent:

Representing Orchard Lake: Anne Dziuba
Representing Sylvan Lake: Matthew Benavides

Others in Attendance:

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

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

3. Approval of Agenda

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

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission approve the agenda as provided for the February 14, 2019 meeting.”

Voting YES: Dahl, Gersin, Grogan, Jamoua, Kowalsky, Krause, Levine, Macon, Ross, 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. Krause, support from Ms. Jamoua:

“That the Minutes of the January 10, 2019 meeting be approved as presented.”

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

The motion carried.

6. Acceptance of Financial Report

The report for January was summarized by Mr. Grogan, the Commission’s Treasurer. The Executive Director noted that several 2018 budget expenditures were disbursed in January of 2019.

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

“That the Financial Report be accepted.”

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

The motion carried.

The Chairperson stated that some remaining agenda items would be considered out of order.

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 “State of the Communities” event on March 11, simulcasts of West Bloomfield

Township Board meetings, anchor Brooke Allen's work on "The Splash", the involvement of Civic Center TV and Motown Digital in Parks and Recreation's summer concert series at Marshbank, WBLD's presence at the West Bloomfield Educational Foundation's Casino night on February 8, and the new WBLD banners to be displayed on the boulevard into the Township Civic Center.

Discussion focused on the logistics of the March 11 event and the fact that it is occurring during Sunshine Week.

Mrs. Macon mentioned that February 13 was World Radio Day, with Amateur Radio Day coming up in April and National Radio Day in August.

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

The report was summarized by Mr. Kowalsky, the committee chairperson.

At the request of the Chairperson, the Executive Director presented the amendments to the Commission's protocols that the committee is recommending for approval.

10. New Business

Recommendation of the Commission Operations and Strategic Planning Committee – Amendment of GWBCCC Bylaws (SECOND READING)

The Chairperson presented the recommendation and reminded members that consideration at this meeting is the second reading of the amendments, the first reading having occurred on January 10.

Committee Recommendation:

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

The Executive Director noted the correction of two typos discovered by Mr. Warshay.

The Chairperson suggested a motion for approval.

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

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission approve the amendment of its bylaws as recommend by the Commission Operations and Strategic Planning Committee and authorize the Chairperson to correct any non-substantive or grammatical errors.”

Mrs. Macon pointed out that authorizing the Chairperson to make changes is standard practice and extends only to immediate publication of the amendments being considered.

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

The motion carried. Pursuant to the requirement that amendments to the bylaws be approved by a two-thirds vote of the Commission (8 members), the amendments were approved.

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

The Chairperson presented the recommendation.

Committee Recommendation:

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

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

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

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

The motion carried.

Committee Appointments

The Chairperson stated that he is recommending committee appointments based on vacancies and commissioners' personal schedules. He added that with these changes, each commissioner is assigned to one or two committees, and each community is represented on each committee.

For the Finance Committee, Mr. Ross to replace Mr. Benavides.

For the Community Programming Committee, Mr. Ross to replace Mr. Benavides, and Ms. Dahl to be added.

For the Commission Operations and Strategic Planning Committee, Mr. Benavides and Ms. Dahl to be added and Mr. Gersin designated as committee vice-chairperson.

Motion by Mr. Gersin, support from Mr. Warshay

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission approve the committee assignments recommended by the Chairperson.”

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

The motion carried.

Mr. Kowalsky left at 8:05PM.

7. Committee Reports (continued)

Report of the Community Programming Committee

The report was presented by Mrs. Macon, 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: Dahl, Gersin, Grogan, Jamoua, Krause, Levine, Macon, Ross, Warshay
Voting NO:

The motion carried.

8. Executive Director's Report (continued)

Cable Operators

No communication was received from AT&T or Comcast.

GWBCCC Directory

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

Cable Industry News

A recent survey found that only 12 percent of Americans are committed to keeping their current cable service.

AT&T's DirecTV Now, the service the company has identified as its primary future offering after moving away from U-Verse and DirecTV, lost 14 percent of its subscribers in the fourth quarter of 2018.

Comcast video subscriptions decreased by less than expected in the fourth quarter, and internet subscriptions increased by more than expected. The company's revenue was up 5.2 percent and cash flow up 7.3 percent.

The cost of cable is increasing, with broadcast TV and regional sports fees the primary drivers. For Comcast, broadcast is up 25 percent, regional sports up 20 percent, modem/router rental up 18 percent, and digital transport adaptor rental (the least expensive converter) up 20 percent. Across the entire cable industry, broadcast and regional sports fees are up 288 percent since 2015.

There were 23 million broadband only (no video service) homes in the U.S. in 2018, and that number is predicted to increase to 41 million by 2023.

A cable publication recently listed five reasons cord-cutting will accelerate in 2019, including an improved television experience through streaming, intensive marketing by streaming providers, more streaming sports coverage, including live sports, the fact that people feel thrifty when they drop cable, and new 5G service making streaming even easier.

Mr. Grogan provided an article including some interesting statistics regarding cable. Comcast lost 1.6 percent of its subscribers in 2018, DirecTV lost 6 percent, and U-verse lost 1.3 percent, while Sling TV increased 9.3 percent and DirecTV Now increased 37.3 percent.

Communication

No communication was received.

Commission Assistance to Residents

A member of the Cable Commission was charged for months for a service he did not order, and Comcast offered only a partial refund. After a referral from the Commission, Comcast contacted the subscriber and completed a full refund.

A subscriber terminated his service and sent all equipment back to the company via UPS. The return was not acknowledged and he was charged for the items. He was contacted after a Commission referral, the problem turned out to be serial number confusion on the company end, and the invoice was retracted.

Preview

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

The Chairperson stated that he had read an article recently pointing out that the increasing cost of cable is unusual since generally the price of a product or service in decline goes down.

Mr. Warshay stated that he was able to resolve an issue with AT&T without Commission assistance. The Executive Director stated that the Commission has much more success in resolving issues with Comcast than with AT&T because Comcast has established a team of customer service representatives to deal specifically with those issues.

9. Unfinished Business

No items of Unfinished Business were presented.

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

Mrs. Macon reminded commissioners and viewers of the annual Greater West Bloomfield Michigan Week Community Awards Breakfast on Friday, May 10 and asked all to submit honorees for the "Hidden Treasures" recognition.

She also reported a session being presented at the Michigan NATOA/Michigan ACM conference at the Lansing Center on March 6 by herself and the Executive Director. The topic is "How to Grow Boards and Commissions", and commissioners can contact the Chairperson for authorization to use professional development funding for registration and mileage.

In response to a question from Mr. Warshay, Mrs. Macon confirmed that the breakfast is at 7:00 AM on May 10 at Bay Pointe Country Club, and tickets are available, with an April 29 deadline, at michiganweek.org. She added that the Commission may want to purchase a table.

13. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by the Chairperson at 8:26PM.

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