



GREATER WEST BLOOMFIELD CABLE COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

KEEGO HARBOR • ORCHARD LAKE • SYLVAN LAKE • WEST BLOOMFIELD

MINUTES

April 11, 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: Anne Dziuba, Dan Krause

Representing Sylvan Lake: Phil Ross

Representing West Bloomfield: Harvey Gersin, Nada Jamoua, Mark Kowalsky,
Suzanne Levine, Deborah Macon (arrived at 7:35PM),
Jonathan Warshay

Members Absent:

Representing Sylvan Lake: Matthew Benavides

Others in Attendance:

David Albery (Executive Director, GWBCCC)

The Executive Director stated that Mr. Benavides had communicated his inability to attend the meeting. He added that material in addition to that delivered earlier in the week had been provided for commissioners at the dais.

3. Approval of Agenda

The Chairperson stated that agenda items 7-A and 7-B should be reversed.

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

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission approve the agenda as revised for the April 11, 2019 meeting.”

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

“That the Minutes of the March 14, 2019 meeting and the April 2, 2019 joint meeting be approved as presented.”

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

The motion carried.

6. Acceptance of Financial Report

The report for January through March was summarized by Mr. Grogan, the Commission's Treasurer.

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

“That the Financial Report be accepted.”

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

The motion carried.

Mrs. Macon arrived at 7:35PM.

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.

Report of the Community Programming Committee

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

The Commission Chairperson thanked the members of the Cable Community Panel for their participation and contributions, and Mrs. Macon emphasized the importance of recognizing their contributions during National Volunteer Week.

Mr. Krause reported discussion at the Panel meeting on April 10 regarding the importance of public awareness of the programming available through the Commission's resources and the services provided by many volunteer community organizations.

Mrs. Dziuba encouraged all commissioners to spend time viewing the excellent programming available on demand at civiccentertv.com.

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.”

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

Voting NO:

The motion carried.

8. Executive Director's Report

Civic Center TV

Commissioners were provided a written report of programming cablecast on Civic Center TV in March as well as projects in production and those planned for future months.

Cable Operators

Commissioners were provided copies of a letter from Comcast regarding a rate increase for one channel.

Cable Industry News

A Leichtman Research study shows that 43 percent of streaming subscribers have switched from traditional pay TV. Only 15 percent were never cable or satellite subscribers. 71 percent of subscribers to streaming services are between ages 18 and 44.

Nielsen's total audience report shows total media use unchanged from 2017 to 2018, with more use on smartphones and less on TV sets. The percentage of homes with a streaming subscription in the U.S. rose from 61 percent to 67 percent.

Comcast has introduced a new product, Xfinity Flex, which is not a cable service but an internet portal to streaming services, music services, purchase and rental of movies, and a few live programming sources. The cost of the service is 5 dollars a month.

The 2019 J.D. Power U.S. Telecom In-Home Service Technician Study rates Dish Network number one, Charter number 2, and AT&T number 3. The criteria were ease of making appointments, social media presence, and use of the internet and apps for follow-up.

Cord-nevers, those who have never been pay TV subscribers, constituted 9 percent of the population in 2017 and increased to 12 percent in 2018. The median age of the group is 33, with household income of \$53,000. 27 percent of them say they plan to subscribe to a pay TV service in the next 6 months.

Communication

No communication was received.

Commission Assistance to Residents

The Executive Director and Mrs. Macon have been working to assist a resident who lost her Comcast video and telephone service. Resolution may have already occurred or be just around the corner.

The mother of a West Bloomfield resident moved from Northville to a senior facility in West Bloomfield and the resident had substantial difficulty transferring service and her telephone number. The Commission worked with Comcast to complete the transfer.

Preview

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

Mr. Grogan clarified that the new Xfinity Flex service is not a cable service but rather an internet portal.

The Chairperson stated that he receives an electronic newsletter, Cord-Cutters Daily, which reports that streaming services have raised their prices due to increased programming costs. The Executive Director pointed out that those costs have also driven price increases in cable over the years.

Mrs. Macon stated that the situation she and the Executive Director have been working on is an example of how the Commission can improve the lives of residents. She added that the bundling of services by providers may complicate situations such as these and asked how the Commission may make residents aware of the assistance that is available.

In response to a question from Mr. Kowalsky, the Executive Director stated that the new Xfinity Flex service is an internet service and therefore not a part of franchise fee or PEG support calculations.

9. Unfinished Business

No items of Unfinished Business were presented.

10. New Business

Mr. Warshay asked whether the Commission could move from distribution of paper material to electronic distribution, and the Executive Director stated that the initiative is on the agenda of the Commission Operations and Strategic Planning Committee. It would involve several questions, including the availability of laptops or tablets for use at meetings and how the material would be posted on-line. Mrs. Macon suggested that there are commercial software options available for this purpose.

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. Warshay stated that Household Hazardous Waste Day is on Saturday, April 13, 9AM to 2PM, at the Township Civic Center complex.

Mrs. Macon reported the April meeting of the Clergy Association and Community Forum, hosted by the Commission at Green Media Center on April 4. She also mentioned the Michigan Week Breakfast on May 10 at Bay Pointe Country Club, focusing on attendance and sponsorship.

13. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by the Chairperson at 8:14PM.

The next meeting of the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission is **THURSDAY, MAY 9, 2019**, at **7:30PM** at **WEST BLOOMFIELD TOWN HALL**, 4550 Walnut Lake Road, West Bloomfield, Michigan.