



GREATER WEST BLOOMFIELD CABLE COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

KEEGO HARBOR • ORCHARD LAKE • SYLVAN LAKE • WEST BLOOMFIELD

MINUTES

May 9, 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 (left at 8:05PM), Michael Grogan
Representing Orchard Lake: Anne Dziuba, Dan Krause
Representing Sylvan Lake: Phil Ross
Representing West Bloomfield: Harvey Gersin, Nada Jamoua, Suzanne Levine,
Deborah Macon, Jonathan Warshay

Members Absent:

Representing Sylvan Lake: Matthew Benavides
Representing West Bloomfield: Mark Kowalsky

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

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

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission approve the agenda as provided for the May 9, 2019 meeting.”

Voting YES: Dahl, Dziuba, Gersin, Grogan, Jamoua, 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 Ms. Levine, support from Ms. Jamoua:

“That the Minutes of the April 11, 2019 meeting be approved as presented.”

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

Voting NO:

The motion carried.

6. Acceptance of Financial Report

The report 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, 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 Community Programming Committee

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

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

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission accept the report of the Community Programming Committee.”

Voting YES: Dahl, Dziuba, Gersin, Grogan, Jamoua, 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 cablecast on Civic Center TV in April and early May. The Executive Director mentioned that the Youth Assistance Awards were held this year in the iCenter at West Bloomfield High School and the Police Memorial in the boardroom at Town Hall.

Cable Operators

No communication was received from Comcast or AT&T.

Cable Industry News

The Executive Director thanked those commissioners who have sent along links to cable industry stories in several publications.

In the first quarter of 2019, the major pay TV providers, including Dish Network, Spectrum, AT&T, and Comcast, lost over 1 million subscribers, while streaming viewership increased 72 percent.

The “Battle for the American Couch Potato” report states finds that streaming revenue increased 37 percent from 2017 to 2018 and is expected to increase another 35 percent from 2018 to 2019. In the same time periods, pay TV was down 4 percent and expected to be down another 5% over the next year.

The president of NBC Universal has stated that the growth of streaming services is “unsustainable” and cites as proof the steep decline in subscribership for AT&T’s DirecTV Now. The CEO of AT&T has stated that the decline will stabilize.

Comcast revenue from video services decreased one-half on one percent in the first quarter of 2019. In the same time period, due to price increases and discontinuation of promotional offers, AT&T lost a total of 627 thousand subscribers across its U-verse, DirecTV, and DirecTV Now platforms.

Communication

No communication was received.

Commission Assistance to Residents

The Commission frequently receives communication from residents concerned that their monthly bill does not match a price to which they agreed as part of a promotional deal. Those concerns are forwarded to the operator, and the discrepancy is often due to the fact that such offers do not cover taxes, fees, surcharges, and equipment, costs which may increase during the promotional period.

The Commission recently received another inquiry regarding the cost of providing services to a residence which is unusually distant or inaccessible from the cable company's infrastructure. Because Public Act 480, the law governing cable franchises in Michigan, does not require service to all dwelling units, operators may charge extra for that connection. The Commission is always happy to facilitate communication between the resident and the company in such situations, often resulting in a discounted cost figure.

Preview

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

Mr. Ross stated that due to a price increase, he recently canceled his Netflix subscription and added that he believes AT&T is now constructing fiber directly to the home in some areas. Discussion focused on the bandwidth limitations of the original AT&T U-verse technology.

Mrs. Macon commended the high school iCenter as the new location for the Youth Assistance Awards and mentioned the comments of West Bloomfield Police Chief Michael Patton during the Police Memorial on May 3.

Mr. Grogan stated that he is a long-term Netflix subscriber, both on-line and DVD delivery, and is very happy with the service. He added that he also had difficulty with Comcast regarding his monthly cost under a long-term promotional deal.

9. Unfinished Business

No items of Unfinished Business were presented.

10. New Business

No items of New 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.

Ms. Dahl left at 8:05PM.

12. Commissioner Comments

Ms. Levine stated that the Greater West Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce is holding its eleventh annual leadership luncheon on June 5 at Andiamo and is hosting, in partnership with West Bloomfield Township, the seventh annual Health and Wellness Fair at Town Hall on June 26.

Mrs. Macon mentioned the Michigan Week Awards Breakfast on May 10 at Bay Pointe Country Club and the Commission's role as a sponsor of the event. She added that May 11 is letter carrier food drive day and that the traditional Memorial Day Service will be held at Pine Lake Cemetery on May 27.

Mr. Warshay stated that the second annual West Bloomfield Youth Assistance Food Truck Rally is scheduled for Friday, June 7, 5:00 to 9:30PM, in the Orchard Mall parking lot.

Mr. Ross mentioned a Red Cross blood drive at Temple Shir Shalom on June 23.

In response to questions from Mr. Grogan regarding programming produced for the school district channel by West Bloomfield High School students, Mrs. Dziuba invited commissioners to view the programming on WBTV or on-demand at the WBTV web site and judge the quality for themselves. The Executive Director added that the Commission is contractually obligated to produce core programming for the channel, with the expectation that the district and its students provide the rest. He added that discussion at the May 7 meeting of the Community Programming Committee meeting focused on how to encourage the production of more quality programming for WBTV by students, using new facilities put in place in the last year. Mrs. Dziuba added that high school students have produced a series of public service announcements for broadcast on WBLD.

The Executive Director mentioned two additional Memorial Day events, the Keego Harbor parade and the Sylvan Lake parade and ceremony.

Mr. Krause mentioned that preparations have begun for the St. Mary's fair on Memorial Day weekend.

13. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by the Chairperson at 8:11PM.

The next meeting of the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission is **THURSDAY, JUNE 13, 2019, at 7:30PM at WEST BLOOMFIELD TOWN HALL, 4550 Walnut Lake Road, West Bloomfield, Michigan.**