



GREATER WEST BLOOMFIELD
CABLE COMMUNICATIONS
COMMISSION

KEEGO HARBOR • ORCHARD LAKE • SYLVAN LAKE • WEST BLOOMFIELD

MINUTES

June 13, 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,
Deborah Macon

Members Absent:

Representing Sylvan Lake: Matthew Benavides

Representing West Bloomfield: Suzanne Levine, Jonathan Warshay

Others in Attendance:

David Albery (Executive Director, GWBCCC)

The Executive Director stated that Ms. Levine and Mr. Warshay had communicated their inability to attend the meeting. He added that additional material had been provided for commissioners at the dais.

The Chairperson stated that Sylvan Lake commissioner Matthew Benavides is leaving the Commission at the end of the month and thanked him for his service to the Commission and his community.

3. Approval of Agenda

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

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission approve the agenda as provided for the June 13, 2019 meeting.”

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

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 Mr. Kowalsky:

“That the Minutes of the May 9, 2019 meeting be approved as presented.”

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

Voting NO:

The motion carried.

6. Acceptance of Financial Reports

The report for January through May was summarized by Mr. Grogan, the Commission's Treasurer. The Executive Director presented the summary of first quarter 2019 payments from cable operators and emphasized that there has been a gradual decline in revenues from quarter to quarter.

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

“That the Financial Reports be accepted.”

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

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 of committee meetings on May 13 and June 3. Commission Chairperson Harvey Gersin presented the May 13 report, and committee chairperson Mark Kowalsky summarized the June 3 report.

Report of the Finance Committee

Commissioners were provided a written report which was presented by Mr. Grogan, the committee chairperson.

At the request of the Executive Director, Mr. Grogan outlined the process by which the Commission's annual budget has been established over the past several years, including an initial document prepared by the Commission's contractors, adoption by the Finance Committee, adoption by the Commission, and approval by the four communities.

Report of the Community Programming Committee

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

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

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

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

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 May. The Executive Director noted the tremendous volume of major event programming produced during the month.

Cable Operators

No communication was received from Comcast or AT&T.

Cable Industry News

A report from the federal government, specifically the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, shows that 86 percent of internet users between the ages of 15 and 24 watch video on-line while the rate for users over 65 is 40 percent. 73 percent of U.S. households subscribe to pay TV in some form, and of the 27 percent who do not subscribe, 40 percent are former subscribers who cut the cord and 60 percent never subscribed.

The annual American Customer Satisfaction Index rates AT&T U-verse number 1 among cable providers, with Verizon FIOS number 2. DirecTV is number 1 among satellite providers, and Netflix is #1 among streaming services.

Communication

The Commission received letters from each of its contractors, Motown Digital and Cable Commission Consulting, expressing interest in providing services in 2020, with specific terms and conditions to be negotiated.

Commission Assistance to Residents

A West Bloomfield resident posed a question to the Commission regarding Comcast's presence on his property and whether it is in the prescribed easement. The Commission provided a Township GIS survey showing the utility easement, which did not align with the survey the home-owner received when he purchased the home. The Commission and the resident will be working with the county, the Township, and eventually Comcast, to determine the answer to the original inquiry.

A major storm on May 10 brought down a large tree which affected electrical and communications cable in Sylvan Lake. When service was restored, there was a large amount of cable lying on the ground. Not knowing whether it was Comcast or AT&T cable, the Commission notified both companies. AT&T responded that the cable did not belong to them, and Comcast removed it.

Preview

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

9. Unfinished Business

No items of Unfinished Business were presented.

10. New Business

Recommendation of the Finance Committee - Opposition to Proposed FCC “In-Kind” Order

The Chairperson presented the recommendation.

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission urge Representatives Brenda Lawrence and Haley Stevens to join the group of Democratic members of the House opposing the FCC’s proposed action regarding in-kind considerations.”

Motion by Mrs. Macon, support from Mrs. Dziuba:

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission urge Representatives Brenda Lawrence and Haley Stevens to join the group of Democratic members of the House opposing the FCC’s proposed action regarding in-kind considerations.”

Mrs. Macon stated the committee recommendation is an urgent call to action and that the Commission must be able to point to its role in protecting the communities’ resources. She added that some commissioners will follow up the Commission communication with communications of their own.

Mr. Kowalsky stated that leveraging personal connections to Representatives Lawrence and Stevens is an appropriate method of communication, either written or verbal.

In response to a question from Mr. Grogan, the Executive Director stated that after researching the current status of the issue before the FCC and organized opposition to it, he will create a communication to be reviewed by the Chairperson and then sent to both members of Congress from the entire Commission. Mrs. Macon added that she has contacts in the offices of both representatives.

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

Voting NO:

The motion carried.

Recommendation of the Commission Operations and Strategic Planning Committee - Amendment of GWBCCC Bylaws

The Chairperson presented the recommendation.

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

The Chairperson stated that this presentation is the first reading of the amendment, which will be considered for approval at the July 11, 2019 Commission meeting. Any commissioners who have questions between this meeting and the next should contact the Executive Director.

Recommendation of the Commission Operations and Strategic Planning Committee – Revision of GWBCC Protocols

The Chairperson presented the recommendation.

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

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

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

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

Voting NO:

The motion carried.

Recommendation of the Community Programming Committee – Approval of GWBCCC Programming Resources Document

The Chairperson presented the recommendation.

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission approve the document ‘GWBCCC Programming Resources’ as recommended by the Community Programming Committee.”

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

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission approve the document ‘GWBCCC Programming Resources’ as recommended by the Community Programming Committee.”

Mr. Kowalsky stated that the document is very thoughtful and thorough and commended those who worked on developing it. The Chairperson added that the document is a combination of several previous disparate documents and includes vision, mission, and much more.

In response to a question from Mr. Grogan regarding new sections of the document and a statement from Mrs. Macon regarding the submission of programming for Civic Center TV and the standards applied to those submissions, Mrs. Dziuba summarized the document, emphasizing components which were previously in place and those which are new.

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

Voting NO:

The motion carried.

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. Krause commended Civic Center TV coverage of the Michigan Week Breakfast and the event celebrating the addition of Apple Island to the National Register of Historic Places. He added that any subscriber having technical issues with Civic Center TV should contact the Commission or their provider.

Mr. Ross announced an American Red Cross Blood Drive at Temple Shir Shalom on June 23.

Mrs. Macon presented an announcement from Ms. Levine regarding the 10th Annual Health and Wellness Fair at West Bloomfield Town Hall on Wednesday, June 26. She also commended the participation of Civic Center TV and Motown Digital in the Michigan Week Breakfast.

She announced that the Commission will again host the Clergy Association and Community Forum on the first Thursday of April 2020, and she reported the involvement of Civic Center TV in the Apple Island event at Orchard Lake Community Church on June 7 and the Food Truck Rally at Orchard Mall later the same day. She also announced a health fair at Holy Spirit Lutheran Church on June 22 and reminded commissioners that they are all invited to Governor Whitmer's town hall presentation at West Bloomfield High School on Monday, June 17, at 4:00PM.

Ms. Dahl stated that June is National Safety Awareness Month and that local police departments are offering free gun locks.

Mrs. Dziuba reported a very positive recent customer service experience with Comcast, and Mr. Grogan stated he also has had very positive customer service experiences with Comcast.

13. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by the Chairperson at 8:30PM.

The next meeting of the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission is **THURSDAY, JULY 11, 2019, at 7:30PM at WEST BLOOMFIELD TOWN HALL, 4550 Walnut Lake Road, West Bloomfield, Michigan.**