



GREATER WEST BLOOMFIELD CABLE COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

KEEGO HARBOR • ORCHARD LAKE • SYLVAN LAKE • WEST BLOOMFIELD

MINUTES

July 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: 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 7:33PM),
Jonathan Warshay

Members Absent:

Representing Keego Harbor: Ronnie Dahl

Others in Attendance:

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

The Executive Director stated 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 reported one revision to the agenda, that Item 10., B, under New Business, should read "Election of Secretary".

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

"That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission approve the agenda as revised for the July 11, 2019 meeting."

Voting YES: 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 Mr. Krause, support from Mr. Warshay:

“That the Minutes of the June 13, 2019 meeting be approved as presented.”

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

The motion carried.

Mrs. Macon arrived at 7:33PM.

6. Acceptance of Financial Report

The report was summarized by Mr. Grogan, the Commission’s Treasurer.

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

“That the Financial Report be accepted.”

Voting YES: Dziuba, Gersin, Grogan, Jamoua, Kowalsky, 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.

Report of the Commission Operations and Strategic Planning Committee

Commissioners were provided a written report which was summarized by Mr. Kowalsky, the committee chairperson.

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

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission accept the reports of the Community Programming and Commission Operations and Strategic Planning committees.”

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

Voting NO:

The motion carried.

8. Executive Director's Report

Civic Center TV

Mr. Scott addressed the Commission regarding several aspects of the operation of CCT and WBLD, including the high-definition on-line stream, Splash segments, and special event coverage. He also reported technical improvements for WBLD and plans for coverage of West Bloomfield High School football in the fall.

In response to a question from Mrs. Macon, Mr. Scott stated that WBLD will be live from the Orchard Lake Fine Art Show the last weekend in July, with additional recorded video coverage produced for The Splash and other purposes.

Cable Operators

Commissioners were provided copies of letters from Comcast.

Cable Industry News

The A.C. Nielsen Company reports that live TV viewing is decreasing while viewing of streaming content is increasing. In 2018, 77.5 percent of U.S. homes subscribed to a pay TV service; in 2019, that number is 72.9 percent. The percentage of homes with a smart TV is up from 67 to 72 percent, and homes with at least one streaming service subscription is up from 65

to 70 percent.

A survey conducted in March of 2019 shows that streaming is now mainstream and that streaming services are used more than DVRs.

Another survey reports that 10 percent of pay TV subscribers are likely cord cutters and that 5 percent will drop their subscription in the next twelve months. Pay TV is losing just under 5 percent of its subscriber base every year.

Communication

No communication was received.

Commission Assistance to Residents

A West Bloomfield subscriber has a residential and business account at the same address, and Comcast misapplied his payments. The Commission asked the company to contact the subscriber, and the accounts were straightened out.

One of the most common customer service concerns brought to the Commission's attention is a misunderstanding of the terms of long-term agreements which include a guaranteed price for a year or two. Subscribers receive a bill which doesn't match the agreement and contact the Commission, which asks the company to discuss the issue with the resident. The result is that the subscriber has a better understanding of what is and is not covered by the agreement, and the company usually provides some credit in the interest of good customer service.

Preview

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

In response to a question from Mr. Ross regarding a legal dispute between TIVO and Comcast regarding use of the Comcast app to remotely set DVR recordings, the Executive Director stated that he is unaware of any progress toward a resolution.

In response to a question from Mrs. Macon, the Executive Director stated that pursuant to the Commission's vote in June to urge Representatives Brenda Lawrence and Haley Stevens to oppose an FCC proposal which would drastically reduce or eliminate payments from cable operators to communities, he has been working with NATOA and the Alliance for Community Media to create a communication which is in accord with the philosophical positions of the national organizations. When that consultation process is completed, the letter will be sent on behalf of the Commission by the Chairperson, with copies provided to all commissioners.

The Executive Director also stated that there is nearly unanimous agreement that the FCC will approve the proposal on August 1, and the challenge will then be fund-raising to support a legal challenge to the new rule.

Mr. Warshay stated that he contacted Representatives Lawrence, Stevens, and Slotkin regarding the proposal, and the Executive Director added that further opposition from Democrats is not believed likely to change the FCC's expected course of action.

9. Unfinished Business

No items of Unfinished Business were presented.

10. New Business

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

The Chairperson presented the recommendation and reminded commissioners that the proposed amendment received its first reading on June 13 and could now be considered by the Commission for approval. He added that the change governs how the Commission disburses payments.

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

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

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

Voting NO:

Eight commissioners voting in the affirmative, the motion carried and the bylaws were amended.

Election of Secretary

The Chairperson stated that with Matthew Benavides leaving the Commission at the end of June as a representative from Sylvan Lake, the office of Secretary is now vacant. He added that Mr. Ross has agreed to serve in that position.

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

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission elect Phil Ross of Sylvan Lake as Secretary.”

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

Voting NO:

The motion carried.

Committee Appointment

The Chairperson stated that Ms. Jamoua has resigned her membership on the Community Programming Committee and that he is nominating himself as her replacement and resigning his position on the Finance Committee.

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

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission approve the Chairperson’s appointment of himself to the Community Programming Committee.”

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

Voting NO:

The motion carried.

August Commission Meeting

The Chairperson stated that the Commission routinely considers at its July meeting whether to cancel the August meeting, which has happened five times in the past six years. He added that the only critical issue under current consideration is the Commission’s 2020 budget, which is scheduled for committee consideration on August 5, 6, and 27, followed by Commission consideration on September 12. He stated his recommendation that the August meeting be canceled, keeping in mind that he as chairperson can call a special meeting at any time if necessary.

Motion Mr. Krause, support from Ms. Levine:

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission cancel its August 8, 2020 meeting.”

Mrs. Macon suggested that because multiple committees are working on budget issues and in accord with the Chairperson’s comment regarding a possible special meeting, the Executive Director survey commissioners regarding the scheduling of a special meeting. The Chairperson stated that he would take her suggestion under advisement, and the Executive Director stated that all commissioners can take part in the budget process by attending any or all of the committee meetings scheduled for August 5, 6, and 27.

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

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. Warshay stated that West Bloomfield Township has two proposals on the ballot for the August 6 election.

Mr. Krause stated that he received a complaint from a resident of Orchard Lake regarding a Comcast outage on July 10. He suggested that the company should do a better job of communicating with its subscribers.

Mrs. Macon also addressed the issues on the August 6 ballot in West Bloomfield and the fact that several voting precincts have been moved for this election. All questions should be referred to the Township Clerk's office.

Mrs. Macon also mentioned professional development funding in the Commission's 2019 budget and the possibility that a member of the Commission may want to attend the NATOA Annual Conference in Tampa in late September.

Ms. Levine stated that the 13th annual Chamber Awards Dinner will be held on September 24 at Shenandoah Country Club and that nominations for awards are being accepted at the chamber web site.

13. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by the Chairperson at 8:20PM.

The next meeting of the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission is **THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2019, at 7:30PM at WEST BLOOMFIELD TOWN HALL, 4550 Walnut Lake Road, West Bloomfield, Michigan.**