



# GREATER WEST BLOOMFIELD CABLE COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

KEEGO HARBOR • ORCHARD LAKE • SYLVAN LAKE • WEST BLOOMFIELD

## MINUTES

September 12, 2019

### 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the Chairperson, Harvey Gersin, at 7:31PM at West Bloomfield Town Hall.

### 2. Roll Call

#### Members Present:

Representing Keego Harbor: Ronnie Dahl  
Representing Orchard Lake: Anne Dziuba, Dan Krause  
Representing Sylvan Lake: Phil Ross  
Representing West Bloomfield: Harvey Gersin, Nada Jamoua,  
Suzanne Levine (left at 8:22PM), Deborah Macon,  
Jonathan Warshay

#### Members Absent:

Representing West Bloomfield: Mark Kowalsky

#### Others in Attendance:

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

The Executive Director stated that Mr. Kowalsky 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.

The Chairperson reported the resignation of Michael Grogan as a commissioner representing the City of Keego Harbor. Mr. Grogan moved out of the city in August after serving for over two decades as a representative of Orchard Lake and Keego Harbor, including many years as Commission Treasurer and chairperson of the Finance Committee.

### 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 September 12, 2019 meeting.”

Voting YES: Dahl, Dziuba, Gersin, 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](http://gwbcable.org).

No member of the public rose to address the Commission.

#### **5. Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Krause suggested a correction to the Minutes of the July 11, 2019 meeting.

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

“That the Minutes of the July 11, 2019 meeting, the August 27, 2019 Joint Meeting, and the September 3, 2019 Joint Meeting be approved as revised.”

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

Voting NO:

The motion carried.

#### **6. Acceptance of Financial Reports**

The reports were summarized by the Executive Director.

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

“That the Financial Reports be accepted.”

Voting YES: Dahl, Dziuba, Gersin, 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 Commission Operations and Strategic Planning Committee

Commissioners were provided a written report which was presented by Mr. Gersin, the vice-

chairperson of the committee.

#### Report of the Community Programming Committee

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

#### Report of the Finance Committee

Commissioners were provided a written report which was summarized by Mr. Warshay, the vice-chairperson of the committee. He also reported that the cost to the Commission for use of the new Township Wide Area Network, mentioned in the report of the Commission Operations and Strategic Planning Committee, will be about \$50 per month.

Committee Recommendation:

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission adopt its 2020 budget as provided by the committee and recommend approval of the budget by the four communities.”

The Chairperson commended the work of all three committees in developing the 2020 Commission budget.

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, Community Programming, and Finance committees and consider committee recommendations under New Business later in this meeting.”

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

Voting NO:

The motion carried.

### **8. Executive Director's Report**

#### Civic Center TV

Mr. Scott addressed the Commission regarding the operation of Civic Center TV and Lakes FM, focusing on the discontinuation of the Lakes FM identifier “the all new Lakes FM” and promotion of the web site to encourage streaming. He reported social media and marketing strategies and Laker football coverage, including live play-by-play of every game, a weekly show with head coach Ron Bellamy, and Commission presence at games and pre-game

festivities. He also highlighted coverage of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration at Henry Ford Hospital West Bloomfield, new staff at Green Media Center, and his up-coming attendance at the 2019 NATOA Annual Conference in Tampa.

The Executive Director added that the hospital is a major sponsor of Laker Football, Civic Center TV, Lakes FM programming this fall. He also stated that Mr. Scott will moderate one of the sessions at the NATOA conference.

#### Cable Operators

Commissioners were provided copies of a communication from Comcast regarding channel line-up changes.

#### GWBCCC Directory

Members were provided an updated directory of Commission membership, contractors, and committee assignments. The Executive Director stated his expectation that Sylvan Lake and Keego Harbor will appoint new representatives to fill vacancies in the near future.

#### Report to the Four Communities

Commissioners were provided copies of the Commission's report to the four communities for the first half of 2019.

#### FCC Rule Making

The FCC issued its Third Report and Order regarding cable franchising on August 1, an order which will have a major impact on revenue received from cable operators. NATOA, Michigan NATOA, the Alliance for Community Media, and a number of law firms, both in Michigan and in Washington DC are studying the ramifications of the order. Information gathered from those sources and the NATOA conference in Tampa will be aggregated in October for presentation to the Commission and the communities.

#### Comcast "TV Remote" App

In response to an inquiry from the Commission regarding the functionality of the app, specifically subscribers' ability to set DVR recordings remotely, Comcast has stated that the company has no information to share at this time.

#### Cable Industry News

AT&T is suffering loss of subscribers for all of its services, its cable service U-verse, its satellite service DirecTV, and its streaming service DirecTV Now. The company is discontinuing U-

verse and introducing a new streaming service, AT&T TV.

Comcast lost 224 thousand video subscribers in the second quarter of 2019, compared to 140 thousand a year earlier. A cable industry analyst has emphasized how unimportant video subscribers are to the company, characterizing it as “an internet service provider attached to a media and theme parks company”.

The pay TV industry (cable, satellite, telephone companies offering video) lost 1.5 million subscribers in the second quarter of 2018, the worst quarter ever. More than half the loss was among the satellite providers, and the rate of loss is predicted to slow down, as most remaining satellite subscribers are rural residents who have no alternative. Analysts predict that pay TV will lose 2 to 3 percent of its subscribers over the next 12 to 18 months.

A viewership report from Comcast Spotlight, the company’s local advertising service, shows that TV viewing increased in the first quarter of 2019 after decreasing last year. Viewers watch cable networks 65 percent of the time, broadcast networks 30 percent, and premium channels 5 percent. An average household watches 34 different channels, and 308 channels are noted as “most watched”.

Comcast Internet Essentials is eight years old and has expanded eligibility to any household in its service area that participates in a federal assistance program. The internet activist group Free Press has commended the program after being initially skeptical.

### Communication

No communication was received.

### Commission Assistance to Residents

The Commission has received inquiries from several residents, including former commissioner Michael Grogan, regarding whether X1 Cloud DVR content is retained when a subscriber moves or replaces the DVR. Thus far, the answer is not clear, but the investigation continues.

A resident contacted the Commission with a concern regarding an installation charge. Comcast stated that the charge was correct but applied a credit in the same amount.

### Preview

The Executive Director presented his agenda for the time period between this meeting and the next. In response to his question, Mr. Warshay stated that a resident’s concerns over a confusing billing situation have been resolved.

Mr. Warshay stated that the U-verse app does allow subscribers to set DVR recordings remotely.

Mrs. Macon suggested that the Commission work with local school districts and other community organizations and institutions to publicize the availability of Comcast Internet

Essentials. She emphasized that there are households in all four Greater West Bloomfield communities having difficulty making ends meet. The Chairperson stated that the Commission has made clear to local clergy and school districts the importance of Internet Essentials, and Mr. Warshay suggested that Parks and Recreation might be of assistance in publicizing the program.

Mr. Scott suggested placing information regarding Internet Essentials on Civic Center TV and Lakes FM, and he also stated that AT&T U-verse has dropped the NFL Network.

## **9. Unfinished Business**

No items of Unfinished Business were presented.

Ms. Levine left at 8:22PM.

## **10. New Business**

### Recommendation of the Finance Committee – Adoption of 2020 GWBCCC Budget

At the request of the Chairperson, Mr. Warshay, vice-chairperson of the Finance Committee presented the recommendation. The Executive Director thanked the Finance Committee for a very productive meeting on August 27 and the resulting budget presentation document, which will be submitted to the four communities. Mr. Warshay thanked the Commission Operations and Strategic Planning and Community Programming committees for their budget suggestions.

Motion by Mr. Warshay:

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission adopt its 2020 budget as provided by the committee and recommend approval of the budget by the four communities.”

The Chairperson stated that as a committee recommendation, the motion does not require support.

Mrs. Macon commended the contributions of all three committees and their chairpersons in the development of the budget

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

Voting NO:

The motion carried.

### Election of Officers

The Chairperson stated that the Commission’s bylaws require that the four officers represent the four communities.

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

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission elect Ronnie Dahl of Keego Harbor as Secretary and Phil Ross of Sylvan Lake as Treasurer.”

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

Voting NO:

The motion carried.

### Committee Appointments

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

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission confirm the Chairperson’s nomination of Phil Ross of Sylvan Lake as chairperson of the Finance Committee and Suzanne Levine of West Bloomfield as a member of the committee.”

The Chairperson stated that Ms. Levine had to leave the meeting early due to a family medical situation.

Voting YES: Dahl, Dziuba, Gersin, Jamoua, Krause, 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. Krause stated that subscribers should contact their providers at least once a year to review their accounts and ask for lower costs or promotional deals.

Mr. Ross stated that he has several conversations with Comcast regarding the replacement of Cinemax on the provider’s line-up.

He also reported an event at Shir Shalom in late October, a business and senior expo.

Mrs. Macon highlighted several community events including an Optimist event at Top Golf, the Rotary OMNI fund-raiser, the Optimist installation dinner celebrating Lt. Curt Lawson as the organization’s new president, the Chamber of Commerce “Keys to the Township” Awards dinner, and the Women Officials Network award dinner at Glen Oaks.

Ms. Dahl announced the Taste of Keego Harbor event in early October.

### **13. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned by the Chairperson at 8:39PM.

The next meeting of the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission is **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2019, at 7:30PM** at **WEST BLOOMFIELD TOWN HALL**, 4550 Walnut Lake Road, West Bloomfield, Michigan.