



GREATER WEST BLOOMFIELD CABLE COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

KEEGO HARBOR • ORCHARD LAKE • SYLVAN LAKE • WEST BLOOMFIELD

MINUTES

October 10, 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,
Deborah Macon, Jonathan Warshay

Members Absent:

Representing West Bloomfield: Mark Kowalsky

Others in Attendance:

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, including a revised agenda, had been provided for commissioners at the dais.

3. Approval of Agenda

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

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission approve the agenda as revised for the October 10, 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.

No member of the public rose to address the Commission.

5. Approval of Minutes

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

“That the Minutes of the September 12, 2019 meeting be approved as presented.”

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

Voting NO:

The motion carried.

6. Acceptance of Financial Report

The report was summarized by the Executive Director.

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

“That the Financial Report 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 Community Programming Committee

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

Mr. Warshay suggested clarification of the two occurrences which could cause termination of the coverage of a meeting. Mrs. Macon stated that incidents which occurred recently in two local communities caused the committee to recommend revisions to its meeting cablecasting guidelines, dictating that, apart from technical difficulties, coverage can only be terminated by a public vote of the governing body being covered. The Executive Director related the situation in Birmingham in which public comment on a ballot issue was not allowed due to contractual rules regarding the cablecasting of meetings in the city.

In response to a question from Mrs. Macon, Mrs. Dziuba stated that should the revisions be approved, the committee will discuss implementation, and the Executive Director stated that he will provide the revised document to the four communities and ask that it be communicated to all who preside over meetings which are cablecast.

Mr. Warshay added the right to free speech in not only in the First Amendment to the United States Constitution but also in the Constitution of the State of Michigan.

Committee Recommendation:

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

Report of the Commission Operations and Strategic Planning Committee

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

Mr. Warshay suggested a punctuation change to clarify the revisions to the Commission protocols.

Committee Recommendation:

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

Motion by Mr. Krause, 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 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

Commissioners were provided a written report of programming cablecast on Civic Center TV in September.

Cable Operators

Commissioners were provided copies of a communication from Comcast.

2020 GWBCCC Budget

The budget was approved by the West Bloomfield Township Board on October 7 and will be considered by the Sylvan Lake City Council on October 16, the Keego Harbor City Council on October 17, and the Orchard Lake City Council on October 21.

Cable Industry News

A survey of 1,200 teachers nationwide reports a “broadband homework gap”, which disadvantages low-income students who are without broadband access in the home.

Pay TV subscription in the U.S. is currently at 85.5 million, predicted to decrease to 76.6 million in five years. Worldwide, subscribership is still going up, and cord-cutting is expected to hit western Europe in 2024.

AT&T continues to lose subscribers on all its platforms, with blackouts of certain services due to failure to reach retransmission agreements as one cause. Investment advisors are recommending that the company get out of the television business, and AT&T is also the target of a class action lawsuit claiming fraud in reporting subscriber figures for its streaming services.

Communication

Commissioners were provided copies of a report from Commissioner Phil Ross regarding his attendance at the NATOA Annual Conference in September.

Mrs. Macon thanked Mr. Ross for his attendance and asked for a schedule of state, regional, and national NATOA and ACM events. Mrs. Dziuba stated that she looks forward to more information from Mr. Ross regarding the connections between the sessions he attended and discussions at the Community Programming Committee.

Commission Assistance to Residents

A resident in the West Acres neighborhood of West Bloomfield contacted the Commission regarding an AT&T cable which came down during a storm. The company cleaned up the damage following the Commission’s request.

A subscriber was being charged by Comcast for lease of equipment which he owns. The Commission requested that the company update the account and delete the charge, which it did to the satisfaction of the resident.

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

2020 GWBCCC Meeting Schedules

The Executive Director stated that the schedule follows the traditional pattern with the exception of the April meeting, moved one week later because Passover and Maundy Thursday fall on April 9, 2020.

Mr. Warshay pointed out that the November 2020 meeting of the Community Programming Committee falls on the evening of election day. The Executive Director suggested that the Commission approve the schedule as presented and the committee can deal with the conflict later by moving the meeting or adjusting the starting time.

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

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission approve its 2020 meetings schedules as presented.”

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

Voting NO:

The motion carried.

December 5, 2019 GWBCCC Meeting

The Chairperson stated that the Executive Director will not be available to attend the December 5 Commission meeting and suggested that the meeting be moved to November 21.

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

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission move its Thursday, December 5, 2019 meeting, scheduled at 7:30 at West Bloomfield Town Hall, to Thursday, November 21, at 7:30PM, at Green Media Center, and that, if possible, the meeting be cablecast live.”

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

Voting NO:

The motion carried.

Recommendation of the Community Programming Committee – Revision of “GWBCCC Programming Resources”

Motion by Mrs. Dziuba, chairperson of the committee:

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

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

Voting NO:

The motion carried.

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

Motion by Mr. Gersin, vice-chairperson of the committee:

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission amend Section F of its protocols as recommended by the Commission Operations and Strategic Planning Committee and revised.”

Voting YES: Dahl, Dziuba, Gersin, Jamoua, 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 mentioned that election day is November 5 is election with various issues on the ballot in the four communities. He also mentioned the second annual Heroes Appreciation Breakfast, sponsored by West Bloomfield Parks and Recreation, at Orchard Mall on November 8.

Mr. Krause stated election day on November 5 is important for some, and votes are appreciated.

Mrs. Macon reported that West Bloomfield Township Clerk Debbie Binder is hosting a free food clinic sponsored by Alana’s Foundation and supported by the Visiting Nurses Association. She added that those who are not veterans can attend the Heroes Appreciation Breakfast for a charge of 15 dollars.

Mr. Ross stated that he had the same problem that the Executive Director mentioned earlier involving the cable operator charging for subscriber-owned equipment.

Ms. Levine reported a free holiday Health and Wellness event, sponsored by the Greater West Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce, at Orchard Mall, on November 21.

The Executive Director related Mr. Warshay's interaction with a veteran at last year's Heroes Appreciation Breakfast.

He also provided additional information regarding the Birmingham situation mentioned earlier, specifically that the city has entered into an agreement with the residents who were not allowed to speak during public forum at a city commission meeting. The agreement states that residents' free speech rights during commission meetings will not be abrogated.

13. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by the Chairperson at 8:22PM.

The next meeting of the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission is **THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2019, at 7:30PM** at **GREEN MEDIA CENTER**, 4510 Walnut Lake Road, West Bloomfield, Michigan.