



GREATER WEST BLOOMFIELD CABLE COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

KEEGO HARBOR • ORCHARD LAKE • SYLVAN LAKE • WEST BLOOMFIELD

MINUTES

November 21, 2019

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the Chairperson, Harvey Gersin, at 7:32PM at Green Media Center.

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, Mark Kowalsky, Suzanne Levine,
Jonathan Warshay

Members Absent:

Representing West Bloomfield: Nada Jamoua, Deborah Macon

Others in Attendance:

David Albery (Executive Director, GWBCCC)

The Executive Director stated that Ms. Jamoua and Mrs. Macon had communicated their inability to attend the meeting. He added that material in addition to that delivered earlier in the week had been provided for commissioners at this meeting.

The Chairperson reminded commissioners that this is the final Commission meeting of 2019 and that the annual election of officers will be held at the next meeting on January 9, 2020. He added that in advance of that meeting, commissioners will be asked to provide their availability and interest in being elected to an officer position.

3. Approval of Agenda

The Chairperson noted that Item 6 should read "January through October 2019".

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

"That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission approve the agenda as revised for the November 21, 2019 meeting."

Voting YES: Dahl, Dziuba, Gersin, 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 October 10, 2019 meeting and the November 14, 2019 joint meeting be approved as presented.”

Voting YES: Dahl, Dziuba, Gersin, Kowalsky, Krause, Levine, 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 Mr. Kowalsky:

“That the Financial Report be accepted.”

Voting YES: Dahl, Dziuba, Gersin, Kowalsky, Krause, Levine, 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. Discussion focused on the relative advantages of Civic Center TV listings on the Comcast interactive program guide and the program listings on-line at

civiccentertv.com.

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. Krause, support from Mr. Warshay:

“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, Kowalsky, Krause, Levine, 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 October and the first two weeks of November. The Executive Director added that broadcasts of West Bloomfield High School Laker football this fall were very successful and that the last playoff game, the Lakers' loss to Belleville in the regional finals on November 16, was not only broadcast on Lakes FM but also on 1160AM, WCXI, covering the entire metro Detroit area.

Cable Operators

Commissioners were provided copies of letters from Comcast regarding service changes and price increases effective at the first of the year.

2020 GWBCCC Budget

The budget was approved by all four communities in October.

Cable Industry News

The FCC has denied a request from NATOA to stay its August order regarding franchise fees and delay its implementation.

Moody's has downgraded its investment rating of the pay TV industry from positive to stable, stating that cash flow growth will decrease from 6 percent last year to 5 percent this year to 4 percent next year.

In the third quarter of 2019, the top twelve pay TV providers lost 1.75 million subscribers, compared to losses of 975 thousand a year earlier. AT&T's losses (1 million for DirecTV and 100 thousand for U-verse) constituted 80 percent of the industry loss. Comcast revenue was up 4 percent, with 238 thousand subscribers lost.

Education SuperHighway, a group formed in 2012 to advocate for high-speed internet service in every classroom in the United States, stated that 99 percent now have service available, making way for the use of new technology by students and teachers.

In response to a question regarding the availability of high speed internet in students' homes, the Executive Director stated that he has not seen any data on that subject. He added that Comcast Internet Essentials was created to try to narrow that digital divide.

Communication

No communication was received.

Commission Assistance to Residents

A resident with two Comcast telephone lines notified the Commission that one was not functional. Despite the fact that telephone service is not under the purview of local communities, a referral to Comcast resulted in restoration.

A resident who recently closed a Comcast account was unable to navigate the details of the final billing and found that customer service representatives could not provide sufficient explanation. When the Commission asked that the executive customer service office contact the subscriber and work through the details, charges were clarified to the resident's satisfaction.

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 Community Programming Committee – 2020 Cable Television Local Government Programming Services Independent Contractor Agreement

The Chairperson asked Mrs. Dziuba to present the motion, which, because it is a committee recommendation, does not require support.

Motion by Mrs. Dziuba:

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission approve the 2020 Cable Television Local Government Programming Services Independent Contractor Agreement with Motown Digital as recommended by the Community Programming Committee.”

Voting YES: Dahl, Dziuba, Gersin, Kowalsky, Krause, Levine, Ross, Warshay

Voting NO:

The motion carried.

Recommendation of the Commission Operations and Strategic Planning Committee – 2020 Executive Director Independent Contractor Agreement

The Chairperson asked Mr. Kowalsky to present the motion, which, because it is a committee recommendation, does not require support.

Motion by Mr. Kowalsky:

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission approve the 2020 Executive Director Independent Contractor Agreement with Cable Commission Consulting, LLC as recommended by the Commission Operations and Strategic Planning Committee.”

Voting YES: Dahl, Dziuba, Gersin, Kowalsky, Krause, Levine, 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 reported that the Maple/Middlebelt roundabout is scheduled to be completed in

mid-December. Mr. Kowalsky added that as of a few days before the meeting, no cement had been poured.

13. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by the Chairperson at 8:15PM.

The next meeting of the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission is **THURSDAY, JANUARY 9, 2020**, at **7:30PM** at **WEST BLOOMFIELD TOWN HALL**, 4550 Walnut Lake Road, West Bloomfield, Michigan.