



GREATER WEST BLOOMFIELD CABLE COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

KEEGO HARBOR • ORCHARD LAKE • SYLVAN LAKE • WEST BLOOMFIELD

MINUTES

February 13, 2020 (STUDY SESSION)

Due to the lack of a quorum, the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications met in Study Session at 7:30PM on February 13, 2020. In attendance were Chairperson Harvey Gersin, Nada Jamoua, Suzanne Levine, Deborah Macon, and Jonathan Warshay. Also in attendance were Max Gorman and Commission Executive Director Dave Alberty. The Chairperson noted that the Commission can receive reports and engage in discussion but cannot act without a quorum.

The Executive Director presented the financial reports for January of 2020 and for 2019.

Mrs. Macon presented the report of the Community Programming Committee meeting on February 4.

The Executive Director presented a report of programming cablecast on Civic Center TV in January.

Commissioners were provided copies of two communications from Comcast and an updated directory of Commission members, contractors, and committees.

The Executive Director reported on news in the cable television industry, including fourth quarter 2019 subscriber losses for Comcast and AT&T and the fact that despite these losses, Wall Street analysts are bullish on the industry due to companies' success as broadband and wireless phone providers. He also reported that the growth of Netflix has slowed due to competition from new streaming providers Disney +, Apple +, AT&T, and Comcast. As a sign of the times, a small cable operator in northeast Kansas has stopped providing video and become a broadband and phone provider only. Senator Markey (D-MA) and Representative Eshoo (D-CA) have introduced the "Protecting Community Television Act", which would amend the 1984 Cable Act in a way that voids the FCC's 2019 franchise fee order.

The Executive Director also reported that the Commission has assisted a resident with a concern regarding the speed of his Comcast internet service and several residents with concerns regarding billing that fluctuates month to month and does not align with an agreed-upon promotional rate offer. He added that the billing issues are usually resolved when the company is able to explain which components of the bill are included in the agreement and which are not.

The Executive Director provided his agenda between this study session and the next Commission meeting.

The Chairperson noted discussion on the Next Door website regarding cable television service in West Bloomfield and added that he has urged residents to contact the Commission with any questions.

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(unapproved)

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In response to a question from Mrs. Macon, the Executive Director stated that the Commission's State of the Communities event on March 12 will differ from last year's event. Instead of four discrete presentations from the four communities, the leaders will be on-stage together in a Q&A session directed by a moderator. There will be three sessions with the leaders with some brief presentations in between. Mrs. Macon stated her understanding that each session will have a theme, and the Executive Director responded that content will be driven by what each community wants to highlight. Mrs. Macon also suggested that the event include a focus on the Cable Commission, the 2020 Census, and Sunshine Week. The Executive Director added that hopefully the new Oakland County Executive will be in attendance and perhaps part of the program.

In response to a question from Mr. Gorman, the Executive Director stated that the census is conducted by the Census Bureau, part of the U.S. Department of Commerce, and the role of local communities is to maximize its residents' participation, both on the official count day, April 1, and in follow-up with those who do not provide information on that day. Mrs. Macon added that residents will begin receiving census information in March and invited to participate on-line, via telephone, or via mail and also noted that each resident who is not counted costs the local community nearly two thousand dollars in federal aid and programs.

The Chairperson noted a recommendation from himself and the Executive Director regarding the Commission meeting scheduled for March 12 and stated that the Commission will act on that recommendation at a special meeting in the next two or three weeks.

Mr. Warshay stated that West Bloomfield has received a bronze certification as part of the 2019 Michigan Green Communities Challenge for incorporating provisions regarding solar and wind energy into its zoning ordinances.

Mrs. Macon reported regarding the upcoming Greater West Bloomfield Michigan Week Community Awards Breakfast coming up on May 8, focusing on the new location, the Wabek County Club, the nominations process at michiganweek.org, including a new award in honor of Jack Freed, sponsorships, and registration to attend.

The Chairperson adjourned the Study Session at 8:02PM.