



GREATER WEST BLOOMFIELD CABLE COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

KEEGO HARBOR • ORCHARD LAKE • SYLVAN LAKE • WEST BLOOMFIELD

MINUTES

July 9, 2020

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 Orchard Lake: Anne Dziuba, Dan Krause

Representing Sylvan Lake: Phil Ross

Representing West Bloomfield: Harvey Gersin, Nada Jamoua (joined at 7:40PM),
Mark Kowalsky, Suzanne Levine, Deborah Macon,
Jonathan Warshay

Members Absent:

Others in Attendance:

David Albery (Executive Director, GWBCCC)

The Chairperson thanked Ronnie Dahl, whose term expired on June 30, for her service to the Commission representing Keego Harbor. He added that she is still involved with the Commission as an employee of Motown Digital and co-host of "The Megacast" on Civic Center TV and Lakes FM.

3. Approval of Agenda

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

"That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission approve the agenda as provided for the July 9, 2020 virtual meeting."

Voting YES: Dziuba, Gersin, Kowalsky, 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 asked to address the Commission.

5. Approval of Minutes

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

“That the Minutes of the June 11, 2020 meeting and the July 7, 2020 joint meeting be approved as presented.”

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

Voting NO:

The motion carried.

6. Acceptance of Financial Report

The report for January through June was summarized by the Executive Director.

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

“That the Financial Report be accepted.”

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

Voting NO:

The motion carried.

Ms. Jamoua joined the meeting at 7:40PM.

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 chairperson of the committee.

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

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission accept the report of the Community Programming Committee.

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

Voting NO:

The motion carried.

8. Executive Director's Report

Civic Center TV/Lakes FM

Commissioners were provided a written report of programming cablecast on Civic Center TV in June. The Executive Director highlighted the virtual Michigan Week Awards ceremony on June 24 and candidate forums produced by the League of Women Voters, Oakland Area.

Cable Operators

Commissioners were provided copies of a communication from Comcast regarding Internet Essentials.

GWBCCC Directory

Members were provided an updated directory of Commission membership, contractors, and committee assignments.

NATOA Annual Conference

The conference will be virtual this year, and NATOA has contracted Motown Digital to provide and operate the platform. The conference hub will most likely be Green Media Center. Because of the reduced cost of this virtual conference and the fact that no lodging or transportation costs are involved, the Commission has sufficient budget to register all commissioners, with a deadline of July 31.

Cable Industry News

When the pandemic began in the spring, FCC Chairman Ajit Pai urged internet service providers to keep Americans connected whether they could pay or not. He is urging them to continue to keep subscribers connected and is also urging Congress to enact relief for the industry, stating that “now is the time for legislation to ensure that all Americans remain connected until this emergency ends”.

Streaming services are experiencing higher levels of churn (subscribers signing up and then cancelling in short order) in 2020 as Americans are taking advantage of discounts and exploring their options.

The FCC reports that the digital divide in the U.S. has narrowed, with a 47 percent increase in the percentage of Americans who have broadband access, wired or mobile, and rural access nearly tripling.

Comcast is offering free internet service through the end of the year to those who qualify for its Internet Essentials program and has dropped the requirement that disqualified former subscribers with an outstanding balance.

Communication

Commissioners were provided copies of letters from the Commission's contractors requesting that each continue to provide services in 2021.

Commission Assistance to Residents

In June, the Commission was informed of a situation regarding a resident from whose bank account Comcast took an amount one hundred times what she owed, either due to her mistake or a computer glitch. When the Commission inquired of Comcast how this could happen, the company responded that it has not placed any filters in its payment software to prevent such a situation because many of its customers enjoy the option of paying more than the amount due.

The Commission was contacted by a resident in whose rear yard both an AT&T and a Comcast pedestal were open and lying on the ground instead of standing vertical. Upon contact by the Commission, both companies repaired their units.

Another subscriber had no service and could not reach Comcast, a common occurrence during the pandemic. Commission assistance resulted in a service call, the installation of new converters, and resolution of the problem.

Comcast also assisted, at the Commission's request, a resident with an email password problem even though technically, the oversight of the communities and the Commission does not extend beyond video to internet service.

Preview

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

In regard to the overcharged Comcast customer, Mr. Krause mentioned that someone in Germany accidentally bought 23 cars on-line, and Mr. Warshay added that his bank asks him specifically if he is paying a bill and enters a payment in excess of the amount due whether that

is his intent.

9. Unfinished Business

No items of Unfinished Business were presented.

10. New Business

August GWBCCC Meeting

The Chairperson stated that the Commission traditionally decides at its July meeting whether to hold or cancel the August meeting. He added his thought that since the Commission did not hold its regular monthly meeting in February, March, April, or May, the August 13 meeting should be held as scheduled.

Mrs. Macon stated her agreement with the Chairperson and added that the members might consider conducting a self-reflection in order to take the Commission to another level.

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 asked to address the Commission.

12. Commissioner Comments

Mr. Warshay announced a food drive at the West Bloomfield Parks Recreation Activities Center on July 11.

Mr. Ross thanked Motown Digital, Civic Center TV, and Lakes FM for their help in his effort to find a kidney donor.

Mrs. Macon, on behalf of the Michigan Week Committee, thanked the Commission and Motown Digital for producing the virtual awards ceremony in June. She added that many participated in virtual watch parties when the ceremony debuted on June 24 and that planning has already started for 2021.

In response to a question from Mrs. Dziuba regarding the Orchard Lake Fine Art Show, Ms. Levine stated the show is scheduled to take place on the last weekend in July with a limit on attendees as well as social distancing and the availability of hand sanitizer.

The Chairperson stated that the next Commission meeting is on August 13.

13. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by the Chairperson at 8:14PM.

GREATER WEST BLOOMFIELD CABLE COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION MINUTES

July 9, 2020

Page 6

The next meeting of the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission is **THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, 2020**, at **7:30PM** at **WEST BLOOMFIELD TOWN HALL**, 4550 Walnut Lake Road, West Bloomfield, Michigan.