



GREATER WEST BLOOMFIELD
**CABLE COMMUNICATIONS
COMMISSION**

KEEGO HARBOR • ORCHARD LAKE • SYLVAN LAKE • WEST BLOOMFIELD

MINUTES

August 13, 2020

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the Chairperson, Harvey Gersin, at 7:31PM via ZOOM teleconference.

2. Roll Call

Members Present:

Representing Orchard Lake: Anne Dziuba, Dan Krause

Representing Sylvan Lake: Phil Ross

Representing West Bloomfield: Harvey Gersin, Mark Kowalsky, Suzanne Levine, Deborah Macon, Jonathan Warshay

Members Absent:

Representing West Bloomfield: Nada Jamoua

Others in Attendance:

David Albery (Executive Director, GWBCCC)

The Chair stated that Governor Whitmer's Executive Order allowing virtual meetings of public bodies includes a suggestion, but not a requirement, that all votes be conducted by a call of the roll. He added that he will only ask for roll call votes on major issues and that procedural motions will be handled via voice vote.

3. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Mr. Warshay, support from Mrs. Macon:

"That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission approve the agenda as provided for the August 13, 2020 meeting."

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

Voting NO:

The motion carried.

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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. Ross, support from Mr. Krause:

“That the Minutes of the July 9, 2020 meeting, the July 13, 2020 joint meeting, the August 3, 2020 joint meeting, and the August 4, 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 was summarized by the Executive Director.

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

“That the Financial Report be accepted.”

Voting YES: Dziuba, Gersin, Kowalsky, 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 summarized by Mr. Kowalsky, the committee chairperson.

The Executive Director characterized the on-line meeting packet as a work in progress and asked for comments and suggestions to improve the presentation and functionality. Mr. Ross suggested including all documents in one pdf document as well as individually.

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Report of the Community Programming Committee

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

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 and Community Programming committees.”

Voting YES: Dziuba, Gersin, 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 report of programming cablecast on Civic Center TV in July. The Executive Director noted the candidate forums cablecast leading up to the primary election on August 4.

Cable Operators

No communication was received from Comcast or AT&T.

Report to the Four Communities

Members were provided copies of the report for the first half of 2020 submitted to Keego Harbor, Orchard Lake, Sylvan Lake, and West Bloomfield.

Cable Industry News

A survey conducted by ROKU shows that 32 percent of U.S. households have no traditional pay TV service and that cord-cutting momentum going into 2020 has accelerated due to the pandemic and the lack of live sports coverage on cable.

Nielsen reports that streaming is up to 25 percent of total television viewing compared to 19 percent in the fourth quarter of last year. Pay TV subscriptions have decreased slightly, and streaming subscriptions have increased by 4 percent. The most popular streaming service is Netflix, followed by You Tube, Hulu, and Amazon.

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One-third of pay TV subscribers are on a promotional deal that is near expiration, raising the possibility of sticker shock churn, massive cancellations when the monthly bill increases to the actual cost. 42 percent of Comcast subscribers are currently being charged a lower promotional rate for service and/or equipment.

Comcast lost 477 thousand video subscribers in the second quarter of 2020 compared to 224 thousand a year ago. Broadband subscriptions increased by 323 thousand, not including an additional 600 thousand Internet Essentials subscriptions.

Comcast has announced that subscribers will be receiving refunds of regional sports fees due to the shortened major league baseball season. The amount of the refund will depend on the number of regional sports networks and teams in each market, Detroit having one network (Fox Sports Detroit) and one team (Tigers).

Communication

No communication was received.

Commission Assistance to Residents

The Commission made Comcast aware of an unburied cable lying behind three homes in West Bloomfield, but burial of that cable will wait until the issuance of a permit by the Township since the area behind the homes is a protected woodland.

A subscriber contacted the Commission regarding poor quality video signal, and upon referral, Comcast replaced the residential drop and resolved the problem.

A replacement of the residential connection also resolved an internet problem for another subscriber.

At the invitation of the Executive Director, the Chairperson described his interaction with Comcast regarding a billing issue and stated that after having difficulty reaching customer service, he used Commission resources and was contacted by a representative who answered all his questions and put him into a new plan that lowered his bill by 60 dollars a month.

Preview

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

Mr. Ross reported that he will not be able to attend the next Commission meeting on September 10.

In response to a question from Mrs. Dziuba regarding the number of Comcast subscribers in the four communities, the Executive Director stated that his estimate of 20 thousand is based on the most recent number provided by the company years ago before they stopped that reporting and

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takes into account cord-cutting losses over the last couple of years.

Mrs. Dziuba stated that she has had some difficulty receiving a new remote control from Comcast but was happy with the reservation system which allowed her to ask to be called back and not forced to wait on hold. The Executive Director and Mr. Kowalsky also mentioned Xfinity stores in Troy, Rochester Hills, and Southfield, with another being built on Telegraph between Square Lake and Orchard Lake roads. Mr. Gersin added that he had a positive experience replacing a digital transport adaptor.

Further discussion focused on the future of AT&T's U-verse service, fiber-to-the-home, and satellite service, both DirecTV and Dish Network.

9. Unfinished Business

No items of Unfinished Business were presented.

10. New Business

No items of New Business were presented.

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

The Chairperson stated that West Bloomfield Township fiber-optic network construction is occurring in his neighborhood and has done some presumably temporary damage to his lawn.

Ms. Levine noted that Mrs. Macon is a Chamber of Commerce unsung hero and announced the Chamber's big virtual event coming up in October. She added that Mr. Krause's wife, Barbara, is also a Chamber unsung hero.

Mr. Warshay reported a record number of absentee ballots cast in the August 4 primary election and noted that West Bloomfield Township Clerk Debbie Binder is looking to hire additional election workers for November 3.

Mrs. Macon noted the summer reading lawn signs available at the Library. She also mentioned the amount of on-line and electronic material the Library provides.

13. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by the Chairperson at 8:19PM.

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The next meeting of the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission is
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2020, at 7:30PM via **ZOOM** teleconference.