



GREATER WEST BLOOMFIELD CABLE COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

KEEGO HARBOR • ORCHARD LAKE • SYLVAN LAKE • WEST BLOOMFIELD

MINUTES

October 8, 2020

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the Chairperson, Harvey Gersin, at 7:32PM 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, Mark Kowalsky,
Suzanne Levine, Deborah Macon, Jonathan Warshay

Members Absent:

Others in Attendance:

David Albery (Executive Director, GWBCCC)

3. Approval of Agenda

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

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission approve the agenda as provided for the October 8, 2020 meeting.”

Voting YES: Dziuba, Gersin, Jamoua, 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 gwbccable.org.

No member of the public asked to address the Commission.

5. Approval of Minutes

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

“That the Minutes of the September 10, 2020 meeting, the September 22, 2020 joint meeting, and the October 6, 2020 joint meeting be approved as presented.”

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

Voting NO:

The motion carried.

6. Acceptance of Financial Report

The report was summarized by the Executive Director.

In response to a question from Mrs. Dziuba, the Executive Director clarified the expenses included in the “Financial Management” and “Services and Supplies” line items.

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

“That the Financial Report be accepted.”

Voting YES: Dziuba, Gersin, Jamoua, 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.

Report of the Community Programming Committee

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

Motion by Mr. Warshay, 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 and consider committee recommendations under New Business later in this meeting.”

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 September.

Cable Operators

No communication was received from Comcast or AT&T.

2021 GWBCCC Budgets

The West Bloomfield Township Board approved the budgets on October 5, with consideration by the Keego Harbor City Council coming up on October 13, the Sylvan Lake City Council on October 14, the Keego Harbor City Council again on October 15, and the Orchard Lake City Council on October 19.

Cable Industry News

Comcast subscribers will be receiving a rebate for the lack of sports programming on regional sports networks. The company has stated that it will pass along 100 percent of funds it receives from the networks, some of which Comcast owns in whole or in part.

Cord-cutting hit a new peak in the second quarter of 2020, with cable subscriptions down 7.7 percent. Due to general long-term trends in the industry and to the pandemic specifically, operators are expecting even worse numbers for the remainder of the year. Comcast lost 478 thousand subscribers, compared to 224 thousand in the second quarter of 2019.

Internet service providers, including Comcast, have inaugurated a program entitled “K-12 Bridge to Broadband”, under which school districts across the country can buy internet service in bulk from the providers and provide it to students.

DirecTV is on the market for about one-third of what AT&T paid for the satellite provider five years ago. The service currently has 14 million subscribers, down from 22 million in 2015. With this sale and the phase-out of U-verse, the company is focusing on its streaming service AT&T TV.

Communication

No communication was received.

Commission Assistance to Residents

At the request of the Commission, Comcast has completed the burial of an exposed cable running across three properties in West Bloomfield.

The company is working on the burial of a cable under the street in another location. The Commission was made aware that the cable is currently running between two trees across the street from each other.

A subscriber lost service on two Comcast telephone lines and called the Commission. When the matter was referred to Comcast, the service was restored, even though local communities and the Commission have no authority over telephone service.

Another subscriber contacted the Commission regarding intermittent internet service, another service over which local bodies have no jurisdiction. Comcast replaced the residential drop to the residence, and the problem was resolved.

Preview

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

Mr. Kowalsky reported that he did receive a seven-dollar rebate from Comcast of his regional sports fee. He also reported a notification from Comcast that the new Xfinity store in Bloomfield Township on Telegraph north of Square Lake is now open.

In response to a question from Mr. Krause, the Executive Director stated that the fiber construction occurring around the Township is the new Wide Area Network being built to replace the Comcast network. Mr. Krause added that he is aware of a new company providing broadband in Ypsilanti and Lansing.

Ms. Jamoua left the meeting at 7:58PM.

9. Unfinished Business

No items of Unfinished Business were presented.

10. New Business

Recommendation of the Commission Operations and Strategic Planning Committee –

Amendment to GWBCCC Bylaws

The Chairperson stated that this recommended amendment temporarily waives the requirement that the four officers represent the four communities, resolving a situation in which one of the four communities has provided no representative to the Commission. He added that presentation to the Commission at this meeting constitutes the first reading of the amendment and that consideration of approval will take place at the next Commission meeting on November 19.

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

The Chairperson stated that the revision recommended by the committee will allow commissioners who attend meetings virtually to be recorded as present if state law or executive order in effect at the time of the meeting allows.

Mr. Kowalsky suggested that the words “or otherwise” be added to the revision after reference to state law or executive order. Mrs. Macon added that executive orders may include those issued at the county level.

Motion by Mr. Kowalsky:

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission revise Section 3, (Attendance) of its protocols as recommended by the Commission Operations and Strategic Planning Committee, including Mr. Kowalsky’s suggestion.”

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

Voting NO:

The motion carried.

2021 GWBCCC Meeting Schedules

The Executive Director reviewed the schedules for the Commission and its three standing committees, noting any deviations from the routine monthly schedule. He noted that all meetings are listed as virtual and that the Commission can change that designation later if desired.

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

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission approve its meeting schedules for 2021 as presented.”

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

12. Commissioner Comments

Ms. Levine invited all in attendance and viewing on Civic Center TV to attend the Chamber's Virtual Innovative Business Event (VIBE) on October 28 and 29.

Mrs. Macon announced the 2021 virtual Michigan Week Community Awards Breakfast in May, in the evening of a date to be determined. She added that the event will include a special celebration of those in the community who have gone above and beyond during the pandemic.

Mr. Warshay reminded everyone of the general election on November 3. Township residents can vote early in-person, absentee, to be returned either by mail or dropped in the boxes outside Town Hall, or at their precinct on November 3.

13. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by the Chairperson at 8:23PM.

The next meeting of the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission is **THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2020**, at **7:30PM** via **ZOOM** teleconference.