



GREATER WEST BLOOMFIELD
**CABLE COMMUNICATIONS
COMMISSION**

KEEGO HARBOR • ORCHARD LAKE • SYLVAN LAKE • WEST BLOOMFIELD

MINUTES

November 19, 2020

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the Chairperson, Harvey Gersin, at 7:32PM via ZOOM teleconference. He stated that the meeting is held virtually pursuant to the Michigan Open Meetings Act and Oakland County Health Department orders.

2. Roll Call

Members Present

Representing Orchard Lake:

Anne Dziuba (attending in the City of Orchard Lake, Oakland County, Michigan)
Dan Krause (attending in West Bloomfield Township, Oakland County, Michigan)

Representing Sylvan Lake:

Phil Ross (attending in the City of Sylvan Lake, Oakland County, Michigan)

Representing West Bloomfield:

Harvey Gersin (attending in West Bloomfield Township, Oakland County, Michigan)
Nada Jamoua (attending in West Bloomfield Township, Oakland County, Michigan)
Mark Kowalsky (attending in West Bloomfield Township, Oakland County, Michigan)
Suzanne Levine (attending in West Bloomfield Township, Oakland County, Michigan)
Deborah Macon (attending in West Bloomfield Township, Oakland County, Michigan)
Jonathan Warshay (attending in West Bloomfield Township, Oakland County, Michigan)

Members Absent

Others in Attendance

David Albery (Executive Director, GWBCCC)

3. Approval of Agenda

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

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission approve the agenda as provided for the November 19, 2020 virtual meeting.”

Voting YES: Dziuba, Gersin, Jamoua, Kowalsky, Krause, Levine, Macon, Ross, Warshay
Voting NO:

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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 Ms. Levine:

“That the Minutes of the October 8, 2020 meeting, the November 2, 2020 joint meeting, and the November 3, 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.

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

“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.

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Committee Recommendation:

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission approve its 2021 Executive Director Independent Contractor Agreement with Cable Commission Consulting, LLC as presented.”

Report of the Community Programming Committee

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

Committee Recommendation:

“That Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission approve its 2021 Cable Television Local Government Programming Services Independent Contractor Agreement with Motown Digital as presented.”

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

“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 report of programming cablecast on Civic Center TV in October and the first half of November. The Executive Director highlighted the video coverage of West Bloomfield High School football and two episodes of the Megacast honoring veterans.

Cable Operators

No communication was received.

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2021 GWBCCC Budgets

The Executive Director reported that the budgets were approved by the West Bloomfield Township Board on October 5, the Orchard Lake City Council on October 19, the Sylvan Lake City Council on October 21, and the Keego Harbor City Council on October 22.

Cable Industry News

AT&T, with its stock down 30 percent this year, is moving to exit the media business and focus on its core wireless operations. DirecTV and Cartoon Network are on the market, and the company is looking to sell minority stakes in U-Verse and AT&T TV Now.

In the spring, internet service providers suspended data caps. Those limits have now been re-instituted despite the fact that working from home and more time at home have increased usage. Charging subscribers for heavy data use helps companies compensate for revenue lost to cord-cutting and is viewed by some as equitable, making those who use more data pay for it.

Comcast has launched an initiative to help small businesses hit hard by the coronavirus pandemic with grants of up to \$10,000 for marketing and technology upgrades, media campaigns, connectivity, and computer and phone equipment.

Communication

No communication was received.

Commission Assistance to Residents

At the urging of the Commission, Comcast has completed installing cable under the street in a West Bloomfield subdivision, eliminating a temporary and unsightly tree-to-tree overhead run.

Comcast has responded to a request from the Commission that it replace converters and remote control units at a West Bloomfield residence.

At the Commission's suggestion, a subscriber worked with Comcast to resolve problems with intermittent video reception due to wiring in the home.

Preview

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

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9. Unfinished Business

No items of Unfinished Business were presented.

10. New Business

Recommendation of the Commission Operations and Strategic Planning Committee – Amendment of GWBCCC Bylaws

The Chairperson stated that at its October 8, 2020 meeting, the Commission held a first reading of an amendment to the bylaws recommended by the Commission Operations and Strategic Planning Committee. The amendment would temporarily suspend the requirement that the four officers represent the four communities when a community is not represented on the Commission. He added that the Commission may now consider a motion to approve the amendment which, as a committee recommendation, does not require support.

Motion by Mr. Kowalsky:

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission amend its bylaws as recommended by the Commission Operations and Strategic Planning Committee.”

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

Voting NO:

The motion carried and the bylaws were amended.

The Chairperson stated that the Commission will elect its 2021 officers at the January 14, 2021 meeting and that between this meeting and that date, commissioners will be asked to respond to a survey regarding their interest in being elected to each of the four officer positions.

Recommendation of the Commission Operations and Strategic Planning Committee – 2021 Executive Director Independent Contractor Agreement

The Chairperson introduced the recommendation and added that as a committee recommendation, the motion to approve does not require support.

Motion by Mr. Kowalsky:

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission approve its 2021 Executive Director Independent Contractor Agreement with Cable Commission Consulting, LLC as presented.”

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

Voting NO:

The motion carried.

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Recommendation of the Community Programming Committee - 2021 Cable Television Local Government Programming Services Independent Contractor Agreement

The Chairperson introduced the recommendation and added that as a committee recommendation, the motion to approve does not require support.

Motion by Mrs. Dziuba:

“That Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission approve its 2021 Cable Television Local Government Programming Services Independent Contractor Agreement with Motown Digital as presented.”

Voting YES: Dziuba, Gersin, Jamoua, Kowalsky, Krause, Levine, Macon, Ross, Warshay
Voting NO:

The motion carried.

The Chairperson commended Dave Scott of Motown Digital and the Executive Director for their work on behalf of the Commission.

West Bloomfield Township Resolution Regarding Virtual Meetings

The Executive Director presented his recommendation that the Commission join in and support action taken by the West Bloomfield Township Board to establish rules to ensure that virtual meetings are conducted in accordance with the laws of the State of Michigan, specifically Act 228 of 2020.

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission join in and support the ‘RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING RULES FOR REMOTE ATTENDANCE BY BOARD AND COMMISSION MEMBERS; MEMBERS OF OTHER TOWNSHIP PUBLIC BODIES; AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC DUE TO CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC’, adopted by the West Bloomfield Township Board on November 16, 2020.”

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

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission join in and support the ‘RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING RULES FOR REMOTE ATTENDANCE BY BOARD AND COMMISSION MEMBERS; MEMBERS OF OTHER TOWNSHIP PUBLIC BODIES; AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC DUE TO CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC’, adopted by the West Bloomfield Township Board on November 16, 2020.”

Voting YES: Dziuba, Gersin, Jamoua, Kowalsky, Krause, Levine, Macon, Ross, Warshay
Voting NO:

The motion carried.

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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. Ross thanked those who had attended the memorial for Chuck Scott. He added that he experienced a recent increase in his Comcast bill due to the expiration of a promotion but that the company was able to switch him to a new plan at a lower monthly cost.

Mrs. Macon thanked West Bloomfield Parks and Recreation and Lakes FM for the celebration of veterans on November 6.

Mr. Warshay wished all a happy Thanksgiving and reported that he was re-appointed as Township Board liaison to the Cable Commission for another four-year term.

Ms. Levine thanked Motown Digital and Civic Center TV for making the Chamber of Commerce VIBE event in late October a big success.

The Executive Director thanked Mr. Ross for his comments during the memorial for Chuck Scott.

Mr. Krause stated that as he learns more about the services provided to the community by the Commission, he is increasingly convinced of the importance of raising public awareness of those services.

Mrs. Dziuba suggested that the Commission recognize Chuck Scott's contributions in constructing the radio station facility in 1974, and Mrs. Macon added that she supports such recognition. Mrs. Dziuba added that such recognition should include Dave Scott, and Mr. Warshay added that perhaps the studio could be named as a form of recognition. Discussion focused on the logistics of creating and funding a plaque and the possible inclusion of Chuck and Dave's mother Agnes, the first chairperson of the Cable Advisory Board, in the recognition.

13. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by the Chairperson at 8:25PM.

The next meeting of the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission is **THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 2021, at 7:30PM** via **ZOOM** teleconference, link available at gwbcable.org