



GREATER WEST BLOOMFIELD
**CABLE COMMUNICATIONS
COMMISSION**

KEEGO HARBOR • ORCHARD LAKE • SYLVAN LAKE • WEST BLOOMFIELD

MINUTES

May 13, 2021

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the Chairperson, Harvey Gersin, at 6:30PM 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 Keego Harbor:

Ashley Attisha (attending in the City of Keego Harbor, Oakland County, Michigan)

Representing Orchard Lake:

Anne Dziuba (attending in the City of Orchard Lake, Oakland County, Michigan)

Dan Krause (attending in Indianapolis, Marion County, Indiana)

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)

(arrived at 6:36PM)

Members Absent

Others in Attendance

Chris Milia, Dave Scott (General Manager, Civic Center TV/Lakes FM), David Albery (Executive Director, GWBCCC)

3. Approval of Agenda

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

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission approve the agenda as provided for the May 13, 2021 meeting.”

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

He stated that a member of the public was in attendance via ZOOM and that comment will be provided pursuant to the Commission's guidance for the conduct of meetings, limited to three minutes, with all remarks directed to the presiding officer. Public comment is not a dialogue with the Commission at this time, although commissioners may respond during Commissioner Comments later in the meeting or in a subsequent committee or Commission meeting.

Chris Milia, 2201 St. Joseph, West Bloomfield addressed the Commission regarding Civic Center TV. He stated that as a Greater West Bloomfield resident for forty years and the former programming contractor for the Commission, he understands what goes into the production of content, which by itself cannot develop an audience and be an effective source of local programming. He stated that CCT lacks an identity and programming elements which identify the channel or those speaking. He added that with these limitations, Civic Center TV cannot become a service that will attract and retain an audience. It needs marketing, promotion, and a precise program schedule with a format that creates an informative, entertaining package of content. He stated that the program schedule is not just a list of upcoming programs but a blueprint at the foundation of a promotional plan leading to an annual calendar of events at the core of program production.

The Chairperson stated that Mr. Milia had reached the three-minute time limit for public comment and asked him to conclude his comments. Mr. Milia responded that he would not conclude, that he is requesting the courtesy of letting him speak, that he has been trying to communicate with the Commission for three years, and that he was invited to attend this meeting to voice his opinions. The Chairperson stated that Commission guidelines for the conduct of meetings dictate a three-minute limit for public comment, and Mr. Milia responded that he had spent a great deal of time preparing his remarks and should be allowed to present all of them. The Chairperson stated that he would be allowed another minute, and Mr. Milia inquired regarding his options. The Chairperson stated that there is more flexibility regarding public comment at committee meetings. Mr. Milia asked what the Commission is scared of hearing and stated that he is appearing in good faith to address commissioners in an honest and straightforward manner and would appreciate being heard. The Chairperson directed that Mr. Milia be put on hold after one additional minute, and Mr. Milia stated that he has more than a minute of comments. He added that others have been allowed to address the Commission for more than three minutes, that he expects decent treatment, and asked why he is being treated this way.

Mr. Krause stated that the three-minute limit for public comment has been reached, and the Chairperson directed that Mr. Milia be removed from the virtual meeting. Mr. Milia stated that the Commission is unbelievable.

Mr. Warshay arrived at 6:36PM

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5. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Mrs. Dziuba, support from Ms. Levine:

“That the Minutes of the April 8, 2021 meeting be approved as presented.”

Voting YES: Attisha, 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. Warshay, support from Mr. Kowalsky:

“That the Financial Report be accepted.”

Voting YES: Attisha, 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.

Mr. Albery mentioned that the cost of the plaque in recognition of Chuck Scott will be funded privately and that commissioners will be offered the opportunity to contribute.

At Mr. Kowalsky's invitation, Ms. Attisha and Mrs. Macon presented an overview of the strategic planning process in preparation for review of the current plan by the Commission's three standing committees over the next month. They focused on the annual strategic cycle, the logic model, strategic plan components and key questions, and the initial review of the current plan conducted by the ad hoc group (Macon, Attisha, Albery) created by the Commission Operations and Strategic Planning Committee.

The Chairperson and Ms. Levine thanked the ad hoc group for their work on the strategic plan.

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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. 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.”

Voting YES: Attisha, 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 April and early May.

Mr. Scott addressed the Commission regarding the operation of Civic Center TV and Lakes FM, focusing on the return of “The Splash”, hosted by Brooke Allen of WWJ, on May 25 with a special program, the return of reporter Erica Jones and the addition of an intern to the CCT staff, the hiring of former West Bloomfield and Southfield educator Kevin Walsh by Motown Digital, and his involvement in the Commission’s 2021 special projects designed to increase Civic Center TV viewership, relevance, and economic stability. He also mentioned the virtual Michigan Week Awards coming up on May 19, the program “Perspectives on Traditional Native American Life: Apple Island” produced in partnership with the Greater West Bloomfield Historical Society, the four CCT programs submitted for recognition by the NATOA Government Programming Awards, and submissions in June to the Central States Region of the Alliance of Community Media for Philo Awards. He stated that Lakes FM is now included on a world-wide radio station site called Radio Garden and that the new fiber-optic connection from Green Media Center to West Bloomfield Town Hall is complete. He reported that over the past year, just under 100 thousand unique visitors accessed the Civic Center TV web site and attributed that number to the reach of the Megacast and the variety of segments which draw on-line queries.

In response to a question from Mrs. Dziuba, Mr. Scott stated that plans for coverage of West Bloomfield High School commencement ceremonies on June 6 have not been finalized. Mrs. Dziuba emphasized the importance of coverage via live stream due to seating limitations, and Mr. Scott stated that there will be streaming video and audio available.

In response to a question from Mrs. Macon regarding the date and location of the 2021 Philo Awards, Mr. Scott stated that the ceremony is scheduled for October 28 but the location is not indicated on-line. She added that she would like to view the award-winning programs.

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Cable Operators

Commissioners were provided copies of a letter from Comcast regarding channel line-up changes.

GWBCCC Directory

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

Cable Industry News

The firm Digital TV Research predicts a net loss of 16 million pay TV subscribers in the U.S. in the next five years, with 63.9 million customers in 2026. Wells Fargo predicts a 6 percent subscriber loss in 2021, up from 5.1 percent in 2020.

Comcast lost 80 thousand more video subscribers in the first quarter of 2021 than it did in the same quarter of 2020.

Comcast has established Lift Zones, community centers and public spaces with broadband and computers for public use, at two locations in Pontiac, with three more in other Oakland County communities in the near future.

Comcast and AT&T are participating in the federal Emergency Broadband Benefit program which provides a monthly discount on broadband service to eligible low-income households. Subscribers enroll through their broadband provider, and details will be available on the Cable Commission web site (gwbcable.org).

Communication

No communication was received.

Commission Assistance to Residents

An Orchard Lake subscriber was offered an equipment upgrade at no cost and found that her service plan had been changed in the process. The Commission is working with the resident and the company to restore her previous plan and monthly billing.

A member of the Commission lost DVR content when replacing the unit. Comcast does a poor job of clarifying the difference between DVR service, X1 DVR service, and cloud DVR service and subscribers are urged to clearly communicate which service they want so that recordings are preserved if the equipment fails.

A West Bloomfield resident contacted the Commission regarding an unburied Comcast cable on

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his property. The company is waiting for a permit from the Township and the job is scheduled to be completed on May 14. Unburied cable is one of the most frequent subscriber concerns communicated to the Commission.

Preview

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

Mr. Warshay stated that those who subscribe to Xfinity mobile will find their phones automatically use Xfinity wifi when available, saving on mobile data usage. He added that he had placed the web site for Emergency Broadband Benefits through AT&T in the chat.

Mrs. Macon stated that she was very excited to find about the Emergency Broadband Benefit program and asked what more the Commission can do to publicize it, for instance including it in the weekly Commission update provided to the Township Board and the three city councils, having Ms. Levine include it in a Chamber email blast, and having all seven Greater West Bloomfield school districts communicate it to their residents. She added that ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) data indicate that many local residents may qualify.

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

In reference to Mr. Milia's remarks earlier in the meeting and comments regarding time limitations, Mr. Kowalsky stated that all residents are welcome to present their thoughts at committee meetings, where there is more flexibility and where much of the Commission's initial work is done.

Mr. Warshay wished all success to Mr. Ross in regard to his upcoming medical procedure. Mr. Ross thanked all for their support during and stated that he will be missing some Commission and committee meetings during recuperation. He added that he presented the Commission update at the Sylvan Lake City Council meeting on May 12 and that the annual fireworks will

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occur in July. He reported that the DVR problem reported by the Executive Director involved him, and he now has cloud service through Comcast. He commended Xfinity mobile service.

Mr. Krause referenced the remarks made earlier during Public Comment and stated that perhaps some of the ideas expressed should be incorporated at the committee level. He added that he is not aware of any previous attempts by Mr. Milia to address the Commission or one of its committees.

Mrs. Dziuba asked if she could contact Mr. Milia to obtain his written presentation for her review. The Chairperson stated that he would make that contact, and Mrs. Dziuba asked that Mr. Milia be informed that the three-minute time limit for public comment applies to all residents.

Mrs. Macon commended commissioners' comments regarding Mr. Milia's remarks and noted that the Commission is welcoming and inclusive, although perhaps its governance document does not reflect that spirit. She also asked whether the Commission's guidance for the conduct of meetings includes an opportunity for residents to make a presentation to the Commission outside the parameters of public comment and whether that document waives time limits for public comment at committee meetings. The Chairperson stated that those questions could be on the agenda for a future meeting of the Commission Operations and Strategic Planning Committee.

13. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by the Chairperson at 7:50PM.

The next meeting of the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission is **THURSDAY, JUNE 10, 2021, at 6:30PM** via ZOOM teleconference.