



GREATER WEST BLOOMFIELD CABLE COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

KEEGO HARBOR • ORCHARD LAKE • SYLVAN LAKE • WEST BLOOMFIELD

MINUTES

June 10, 2021

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the Chairperson, Harvey Gersin, at 6:36PM, 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 City of Orchard Lake, Oakland County, Michigan)

Representing Sylvan Lake:

Phil Ross (attending in Cleveland, Cuyahoga County, Ohio) (arrived at 6:38PM)

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 Petoskey, Emmet County, Michigan)

Suzanne Levine (attending in West Bloomfield Township, Oakland County, Michigan)

Deborah Macon (attending in West Bloomfield Township, Oakland County, Michigan)
(arrived at 6:53PM)

Jonathan Warshay (attending in Chicago, Cook County, Illinois) (arrived at 6:40PM)

Members Absent

Representing Keego Harbor:

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

Others in Attendance

David Albery (Executive Director, GWBCCC)

The Executive Director stated that Ms. Attisha had communicated in advance her absence from the meeting.

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 June 10, 2021 meeting.”

Voting YES: Dziuba, Gersin, Jamoua, Kowalsky, Krause, Levine
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.

No member of the public asked to address the Commission.

Mr. Ross arrived at 6:38PM.

5. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Ms. Levine, support from Ms. Jamoua:

“That the Minutes of the May 13, 2021 meeting, the June 1, 2021 Joint Meeting, and the June 7, 2021 Joint Meeting be approved as presented.”

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

The motion carried.

Mr. Warshay arrived at 6:40PM.

6. Acceptance of Financial Reports

The report for January through May 2021 and the report of first quarter cable operator payments were presented by the Executive Director.

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

“That the Financial Reports be accepted.”

Voting YES: Dziuba, Gersin, Jamoua, Kowalsky, Krause, Levine, 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 Finance Committee

Commissioners were provided a written report which was presented by the Executive Director.

Report of the Community Programming Committee

Commissioners were provided a written report which was summarized by Mrs. Dziuba, the committee chairperson. She displayed for commissioners the plaque created to recognize the contributions of Chuck Scott to WBLD. The Executive Director noted an email sent to commissioners early in the day offering an opportunity to contribute to fund the cost of the plaque.

Report of the Commission Operations and Strategic Planning Committee

Commissioners were provided a written report which was summarized by Mr. Gersin, the committee vice-chairperson.

Mrs. Macon arrived at 6:53PM.

Mr. Warshay left at 6:55PM.

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

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission accept the reports of the Finance, Community Programming, and Commission Operations and Strategic Planning committees and consider committee recommendations under New Business later in this meeting.”

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

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 May and early June.

Cable Operators

No information was received from Comcast or AT&T.

Cable Industry News

The Convergence Research Group reports that the revenue of streaming providers increased by 35 percent in 2020 and will double by 2023. Traditional pay TV (cable, telephone providers, satellite) decreased 6 percent in 2020 and is projected to decrease 6.5% this year and 10 percent by 2023. 42 percent of U.S. households do not subscribe to a pay TV service this year, and that number will increase to 60 percent by 2023.

The American Customer Satisfaction Index reports that the highest rated TV subscription service is AT&T U-verse, which the company has not offered to new subscribers since April of 2020. Rated third in customer satisfaction is DirecTV, which AT&T has sold as the company gets out of the subscription TV business.

The federal Emergency Broadband Benefit has been available to eligible low-income households since May 12, and in the first three weeks, 2.3 million have enrolled. The program provides a 50 dollar per month subsidy for broadband service and a one-time discount of 100 dollars on a computer or tablet until the 3.2 billion dollar program runs out of funding.

Communication

No communication was received.

Commission Assistance to Residents

A resident who is moving to Macomb County in mid-June established service at his new residence in mid-May and found that his West Bloomfield service had been disconnected. At the Commission's request, Comcast re-connected the service and granted a credit for the inconvenience.

On behalf of one of the commissioners, the Commission asked Comcast to dispatch a senior technician to review all equipment and wiring infrastructure in the residence. The commissioner reports a very successful service call and that all problems are resolved.

A resident was promised credit for intermittent Comcast internet service, which was not granted until the Commission communicated the request.

A resident stopped receiving his monthly bill via USPS and was told that he had switched to paperless billing, which he had not. After several miscommunications and late payment penalties, the Commission asked Comcast to contact the subscriber, clear up the misunderstanding, and grant credit where appropriate.

Preview

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

9. Unfinished Business

No items of unfinished business were presented.

10. New Business

Recommendation of the Commission Operations and Strategic Planning Committee – GWBCCC Meeting Schedules

The Chairperson presented the recommendation and stated that as committee vice-chairperson, he would move its approval.

Motion by Mr. Gersin:

“That, at such time as the West Bloomfield Township Board votes to resume in-person Township meetings, the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission’s 2021 meeting schedules be amended to provide for:

- 1) in-person Commission meetings for the remainder of 2021 at 7:30PM at West Bloomfield Town Hall
- 2) in-person committee meetings at the currently scheduled time at Green Media Center.”

The Executive Director noted that as a committee recommendation, the motion does require support and suggested amending the motion to clarify that the Commission will resume in-person meetings when the Township resumes, not when the Township votes to resume, which is projected for June 21.

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

“That the committee recommendation be amended as follows:

That, at such time as West Bloomfield Township resumes in-person meetings pursuant to the action of the Township Board, the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission’s 2021 meeting schedules be amended to provide for:

- 1) in-person Commission meetings for the remainder of 2021 at 7:30PM at West Bloomfield Town Hall
- 2) in-person committee meetings at the currently scheduled time at Green Media Center.”

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

Voting NO:

The motion carried and the recommendation was amended.

The Chairperson called for a vote on the recommendation as amended.

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

Voting NO:

The motion carried.

In response to a question from Mrs. Dziuba regarding the ability of commissioners to attend in-person meetings electronically due to health concerns, the Executive Director stated that he would provide information regarding that issue.

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. Those unable to attend may provide comments at gwbcable.org.

No member of the public asked to address the Commission.

12. Commissioner Comments

Mr. Ross stated that his kidney transplant has gone very well and thanked commissioners for their support. He stated that he will return to Michigan on June 11, a week earlier than expected. He added that a food truck event will occur in Sylvan Lake on Sunday evening, June 13.

Ms. Levine reported that the annual Chamber of Commerce Health and Wellness Expo is back and will take place on September 22 from 11:00AM to 2:00PM at West Bloomfield Town Hall.

Mrs. Macon congratulated Mr. Ross on his successful surgery. She stated that Michigan Week has an opportunity to request recognition on behalf of the entire Greater West Bloomfield community for its fiftieth anniversary and that there will be a fund-raising effort to cover the cost of that request. She also mentioned Juneteenth events later in the month throughout the country and locally.

13. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by the Chairperson at 7:19PM.

The next meeting of the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission is **THURSDAY, JULY 8, 2021, at 7:30PM** via **ZOOM** teleconference.