



GREATER WEST BLOOMFIELD CABLE COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

KEEGO HARBOR • ORCHARD LAKE • SYLVAN LAKE • WEST BLOOMFIELD

MINUTES

July 8, 2021

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:31PM by the Chairperson, Harvey Gersin, via ZOOM teleconference. He stated that the meeting is held virtually pursuant to the Michigan Open Meetings Act and the West Bloomfield Township Emergency Declaration, approved in March 2020 and renewed in March 2021.

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 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)
(arrived at 6:34PM)

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)
(arrived at 6:55PM)

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. Krause, support from Ms. Levine:

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission approve the agenda as provided for the July 8, 2021 meeting.”

Voting YES: Attisha, Dziuba, Gersin, Kowalsky, Krause, Levine, 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 gwbcable.org.

No member of the public asked to address the Commission.

Ms. Jamoua arrived at 6:34PM.

5. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Warshay stated that the minutes of the June 10, 2021 meeting should reflect that he was attending virtually in Chicago, Cook County, Illinois.

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

“That the Minutes of the June 10, 2021 meeting be approved as corrected and the Minutes of the July 6, 2021 joint meeting be approved as presented.”

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

“That the Financial Report be accepted.”

Voting YES: Attisha, 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 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. Attisha:

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission accept the report of the Community Programming Committee.”

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

Cable Operators

Commissioners were provided copies of a letter from Comcast regarding changes to Xfinity TV services.

GWBCCC Meeting Schedules

Members were provided 2021 meeting schedules for the Commission and its three standing committees, updated as a result of the return to in-person meetings approved by the West Bloomfield Township Board on June 21.

Mr. Warshay stated that when the Township Board voted in June to return to in-person meetings in September, it did not rescind its emergency declaration, allowing the Cable Commission and several other bodies to determine independently whether their meetings will remain virtual.

Cable Industry News

The Federal Communications Commission currently has 4 members, 2 Democrats and 2 Republicans. President Biden is being urged to appoint a fifth commissioner by those hoping that a number of issues, including net neutrality and the Commission's 2019 franchise fee order, will be resolved. Fifty national organizations, including the ACLU, American Libraries Association, Electronic Frontier Foundation, and Writers Guild of America, have called for the re-instatement of net neutrality rules repealed by the Trump administration FCC under Chairman Ajit Pai.

Communication

Commissioners were provided copies of letters from the Commission's contractors, Motown Digital and Cable Commission Consulting, stating their desire to continue to provide services in 2022.

Commission Assistance to Residents

A resident asked the Commission to assist in securing Comcast attention to her slow and intermittent internet service. The situation was resolved to some degree, with her understanding that part of the problem is her computer hardware.

The Commission continues to receive calls from subscribers who agreed to a fixed rate for service for 1 or 2 years and then find the cost increasing. The problem often involves the expiration date of the rate agreement and a lack of clear communication regarding costs (equipment, broadcast and regional sports surcharges, taxes and fees) that are not included in the agreement.

An Orchard Lake resident contacted the Commission regarding Comcast cable hanging from tree branches in her backyard. The Commission requested that Comcast attach the cable to poles along Pontiac Trail, which was completed after the issuance of a permit by the Road Commission for Oakland County.

Preview

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

Mrs. Macon arrived at 6:55PM. She thanked the Executive Director for his assistance with AT&T infrastructure in her back yard.

Mr. Warshay stated that AT&T does provide notification to subscribers when promotional rates expire.

In response to a question from Mrs. Macon, the Executive Director stated that the newest Xfinity

modem is the Xb7. He added that if a subscriber upgrades the modem at an Xfinity store, it is important to ask the sales representative to leave the one in service operational until the new one is installed and functional and the older one is returned. Mr. Ross stated that he owns his own modem, a DOCSIS 3.0, and that it works very well.

9. Unfinished Business

No items of Unfinished Business were presented.

10. New Business

August GWBCCC Meeting

The Chairperson stated that the Commission has historically considered cancelation of its August meeting in July and provided the history of August meetings over the past several years. He added that no committee recommendations are expected until the Finance Committee recommends adoption of the Commission's 2022 budget at the September 9 Commission meeting.

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

“That the GWBCCC cancel its August 12, 2021 meeting.”

Voting YES: Attisha, Dziuba, Gersin, Jamoua, 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 reported two upcoming events, a business expo on August 10 at the Southfield Regency and the annual Health and Wellness Fair on September 22 at West Bloomfield Town Hall.

Mr. Krause reported that the Orchard Lake City Council re-appointed him to another two-year term as a member of the Cable Commission.

In response to questions from Mrs. Macon, Mr. Warshay stated that the Orchard Lake Fine Art Show is July 24 from 10:00AM to 6:00PM and July 25 from 10:00AM to 5:00PM, and the Executive Director stated that Civic Center TV will cover the event for the Splash.

Mrs. Macon stated that the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission is holding public meetings around the state.

13. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by the Chairperson at 7:11PM.

The next meeting of the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission is **THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2021**, at **6:30PM** via **ZOOM** teleconference.