



GREATER WEST BLOOMFIELD
**CABLE COMMUNICATIONS
COMMISSION**

KEEGO HARBOR • ORCHARD LAKE • SYLVAN LAKE • WEST BLOOMFIELD

MINUTES

October 14, 2021

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the Chairperson, Harvey Gersin, at 6:32PM via ZOOM teleconference. He stated that the meeting is virtual 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 Orchard Lake:

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

Nada Jamoua

Others in Attendance

Ashley Attisha, 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 October 14, 2021 meeting.”

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

The motion carried.

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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.

No member of the public asked to address the Commission.

5. Approval of Minutes

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

“That the Minutes of the September 9, 2021 meeting, the September 13, 2021 joint meeting, the September 14, 2021 joint meeting, and the October 5, 2021 joint meeting be approved as presented.”

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

Voting NO:

The motion carried.

6. Acceptance of Financial Report

The report for January through September 2021 was summarized by the Executive Director.

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

“That the Financial Report be accepted.”

Mr. Warshay commended the Commission for being about \$50,000 ahead of budget through 75 percent of the year.

Voting YES: Dziuba, Gersin, 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.

The Executive Director thanked Ms. Attisha and Mrs. Macon for their contributions to the strategic plan being recommended for Commission approval later in this meeting and their

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continuing involvement in the process leading to the implementation of that plan. Ms. Attisha stated that she has enjoyed working with Mrs. Macon, the Executive Director, and other Commission members.

Mr. Warshay noted that he has been appointed liaison from the West Bloomfield Township Board to the Planning Commission and will be leaving the Cable Commission at such time as his successor is appointed.

Mrs. Macon stated that Ms. Attisha's willingness to continue working on the strategic plan although no longer a commissioner provides an opportunity for the Commission to develop a policy regarding the role of skilled volunteers in its work. She added that there are many in the community ready to step forward and help, and she requested that such a policy be placed on a future committee agenda.

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 Mr. Krause:

“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, 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 September and early October.

Cable Operators

No information was received from Comcast or AT&T.

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GWBCCC Directory

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

2022 GWBCCC Budget

The budget was approved by the West Bloomfield Township Board on October 4 and the Sylvan Lake City Council on October 13. It will be considered by the Orchard Lake City Council on October 18 and the Keego Harbor City Council on October 21.

Cable Industry News

Two dozen members of the United States Senate are urging President Biden to nominate Jennifer Rosenworcel as the permanent chairperson of the FCC. Local communities are hoping that under her leadership the Commission will reconsider its 2019 franchise fee order, which she opposed.

Analysts predict that the pay TV industry will lose 33 billion dollars in revenue by 2025, down to 64 billion from the peak of 116 billion in 2016. That would be a 45 percent decrease in 9 years.

In addition to providing cable, internet, and telephone service, Comcast is now selling smart TVs with its flex operating system.

Some interesting statistics have been released regarding streaming versus traditional broadcast and cable TV.

- 214% more people are likely to watch news via traditional TV
- 73% more people are likely to watch sports via traditional TV
- 153% more people are likely to watch young adult content via streaming
- 75% of streaming content is viewed on a TV screen

Communication

No communication was received.

Commission Assistance to Residents

The Commission has received a number of communications recently regarding pedestals which are damaged and/or an aesthetic eyesore.

Two of them (one Comcast, one AT&T) are side-by-side next to a safety path on Long Lake Road. Comcast has repaired its unit; AT&T has not.

One is at a residence and has been straightened but needs a replacement cover.

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An Orchard Lake resident has repeatedly asked Comcast to provide via email her monthly invoice which she auto-pays via credit card. The Commission is working with the subscriber and Comcast to make that happen, not necessarily easy because the default is a comcast.net email address.

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 – Guidance for the Conduct of Commission and Committee Meetings

The Chairperson presented the recommendation and stated that because it is the product of committee action, it does not require support.

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission approve the amendment of its ‘Guidance for Conduct of Commission and Committee Meetings’ as presented by the committee.”

Motion by Mr. Kowalsky:

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission approve the amendment of its ‘Guidance for Conduct of Commission and Committee Meetings’ as presented by the committee.”

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

Voting NO:

The motion carried.

Recommendation of the Commission Operations and Strategic Planning Committee – Approval of GWBCCC Strategic Plan, 2022-2025

The Chairperson presented the recommendation and stated that because it is the product of committee action, it does not require support.

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Committee Recommendation:

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission approve the ‘GWBCCC Strategic Plan, 2022 – 2025’.”

Motion by Mr. Kowalsky:

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission approve the ‘GWBCCC Strategic Plan, 2022 – 2025’.”

Mrs. Macon stated that she enjoyed working with Ms. Attisha and the Executive Director and appreciates the trust placed in that group by the Commission. She added that the objectives included the plan are for 2022 only, with on-going monitoring and review at the end of the year.

Mr. Kowalsky urged commissioners to review the document and share it with others as a representation of what the Commission strives to accomplish.

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

Voting NO:

The motion carried.

Revision of 2021 GWBCCC Meeting Schedules

Mr. Albery stated that NATOA has scheduled a virtual Board of Directors planning retreat and that therefore there is no reason to reschedule early December committee meetings. He suggested that the motion only include rescheduling of the November 18 Commission meeting.

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

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission revise its 2021 meeting schedule by moving the November 18 Commission meeting to Thursday, December 2 at 6:30PM via ZOOM teleconference.”

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

Voting NO:

The motion carried.

2022 GWBCCC Meeting Schedules

Mr. Albery presented the proposed schedule of Commission and committee meetings for 2022, including two revisions of the dates of meetings of the Commission Operations and Strategic Planning Committee, the first moving the February 7 meeting to February 14 and the second moving July 4 to July 11.

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

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission approve its 2022 schedule of meetings as presented and revised.”

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

Voting NO:

The motion carried.

The Executive Director noted that due the expiration of amendments to the Michigan Open Meetings Act and the expiration of the West Bloomfield Township Emergency Declaration, all meetings in 2022 will be in-person.

Committee Appointment

The Chairperson stated that Mr. Ross's schedule no longer allows his attendance at Monday evening meetings of the Commission Operations and Strategic Planning Committee and that he has therefore resigned from the committee.

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

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission accept the resignation of Phil Ross from the Commission Operations and Strategic Planning Committee.”

Mr. Ross stated that he has a Monday evening commitment which runs until May, at which point he will be able to rejoin the committee.

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. Those unable to attend should contact the Commission at gwbcable.org.

No member of the public asked to address the Commission.

12. Commissioner Comments

Mr. Warshay stated that once his replacement is appointed, he will leave the Commission to focus on his new assignment with the West Bloomfield Planning Commission. He added that he has enjoyed working with colleagues as the Cable Commission has faced challenges.

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Mrs. Macon noted that the Commission has discussed the development of supplemental revenue sources and mentioned “Giving Tuesday” as a possible focus. She announced that Rochelle Riley will address West Bloomfield Rotary on October 28 at Sposita’s on 14 Mile Road and that the United We Walk MLK Book Club will discuss Dr. King’s final book “Where Do We Go From Here”. She also highlighted the West Bloomfield School District’s strategic planning initiative and mentioned the on-line survey and a general meeting to be held at the high school on October 18 at 4:00PM.

13. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by the Chairperson at 7:31PM.

The next meeting of the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission is **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2021, at 6:30PM via ZOOM.**