



GREATER WEST BLOOMFIELD
**CABLE COMMUNICATIONS
COMMISSION**

KEEGO HARBOR • ORCHARD LAKE • SYLVAN LAKE • WEST BLOOMFIELD

MINUTES

December 2, 2021

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the Chairperson, Harvey Gersin, at 6:34PM 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 West Bloomfield Township, Oakland County, Michigan)
(joined the meeting at 6:52PM)

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)

Members Absent

Jonathan Warshay

Others in Attendance

Dave Scott (General Manager, Civic Center TV/Lakes FM), Kevin Walsh (Motown Digital),
David Albery (Executive Director, GWBCCC)

The Chairperson announced a procedural change he is instituting effective at this meeting. He asked that commissioners who wish to offer a motion, support a motion, make a comment, or ask a question to raise their hand and identify themselves before their participation. The Executive Director will resolve any issues regarding which commissioner raised a hand first.

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3. Approval of Agenda

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

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission approve the agenda as provided for the December 2, 2021 meeting.”

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

No member of the public asked to address the Commission.

5. Approval of Minutes

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

“That the Minutes of the October 14, 2021 and the November 2, 2021 joint meeting be approved as presented.”

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

Voting NO:

The motion carried.

6. Acceptance of Financial Reports

The Executive Director summarized the reports of expenditures for January through November and cable operator payments for the third quarter of 2021. The Chairperson noted that Comcast rates will increase in early 2022.

Motion by Mr. Ross, support from Ms. Jamoua:

“That the Financial Reports be accepted.”

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

Voting NO:

The motion carried.

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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.

Report of the Community Programming Committee

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

Report of the Finance Committee

Commissioners were provided a written report which was presented by Mr. Ross, the committee chairperson.

Motion by Mrs. Dziuba, support from Mr. Kowalsky:

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

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

The motion carried.

Mr. Krause joined the meeting at 6:52PM.

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 November.

Mr. Scott and Mr. Walsh presented Motown Digital's report regarding Civic Center TV viewership, relevance, and economic stability in the face of changing technology and funding modalities. The report focused on funding opportunities, programming partnerships, changes in

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the CCT programming schedule, and related recommendations. Mr. Scott stated that he is recommending the use of community volunteers instead of paid staff as a motivated sales force for Civic Center TV and Lakes FM sponsorship opportunities, and he emphasized the importance of municipal, community, and industry partners.

Mrs. Macon commended the recommendation regarding the use of skilled volunteers to assist in creating sponsorship and partnership opportunities. She asked for information regarding which entity the volunteers would be assisting (the Commission, Motown Digital, Civic Center TV) and added that the Commission should develop a policy and infrastructure regarding the involvement of those community volunteers. She added that she had trouble accessing the links in the Motown Digital written report.

In response to her question regarding 501(c)(3) status, Mr. Scott stated that most of the grants listed are only available to 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations.

Mr. Kowalsky commended Mr. Scott on the report and the progress being made, and Mr. Scott noted the crucial role of Mr. Walsh in this initiative.

Mrs. Dziuba thanked Motown Digital for a very thorough and effective report.

The Executive Director stated that in regard to the 501(c)(3) status, the Commission is exploring several options, whether it be filing to achieve that status, the creation of a partner organization, or the use of a fiscal sponsor, such as the relationship between Michigan Week and Youth Assistance.

Cable Operators

Commissioners were provided copies of letters from Comcast regarding price increases effective January 1, 2022, a channel-line-up change, and the company's anti-discrimination policy.

GWCCC Directory

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

2022 GWBCC Budget

The Executive Director reported that the Commission's budget has been approved unanimously by the four Greater West Bloomfield communities, West Bloomfield on October 4, Sylvan Lake on October 13, Orchard Lake on October 18, and Keego Harbor on October 21.

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Election of Officers

Commissioners were reminded that the annual election of officers will take place at the beginning of the first meeting of 2022, on January 13, and that each member will be surveyed regarding their interest in committee membership and leadership positions in late December.

Cable Industry News

President Biden's two nominations to the Federal Communications Commission are moving through the Senate confirmation process. The Commerce Committee voted on a bipartisan basis to move the nomination of Jennifer Rosenworcel to the floor, where she is expected to be confirmed and become the first female FCC chair. The committee held a hearing on December 1 for nominee Gigi Sohn and is expected to vote on that nomination in mid-December. She faces stronger Republican opposition because of her positions on net neutrality and regulation in general.

The percentage of homes in the U.S. with a pay TV subscription has dropped from 87 percent in 2011 to 82 percent in 2016 to 71 percent this year. Subscription is generational, with 77 percent of all homes subscribing but only 64 percent of those in the 18 to 44 age range.

Cord cutting and the growth of streaming services both slowed down in the third quarter of this year.

Communication

No communication was received.

Commission Assistance to Residents

Many inquiries to the Commission focus on billing issues, including incorrect charges for service and equipment. In the last month, the Commission has received several concerns in both areas. Because of the access the Commission has to the escalation team at Comcast, all have been resolved to the satisfaction of the subscriber.

The Commission has also been the recipient of several questions regarding abandoned cable, including whether it belongs to Comcast or AT&T. The first step is a site visit to determine ownership, followed by a request that the company remove it.

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 – 2022 Executive Director Independent Contractor Agreement

The Chairperson presented the recommendation and noted that as the product of a committee, the motion to approve does not require a second.

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission approve the 2022 Independent Contractor Agreement with Cable Commission Consulting, LLC.”

Motion by Mr. Kowalsky:

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission approve the 2022 Executive Director Independent Contractor Agreement with Cable Commission Consulting, LLC.”

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

The motion carried.

Recommendation of the Community Programming Committee – 2022 Cable Television Local Government Programming Services Independent Contractor Agreement

The Chairperson presented the recommendation and noted that as the product of a committee, the motion to approve does not require a second.

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission approve the 2022 Cable Television Local Government Programming Services Independent Contractor Agreement with Motown Digital.”

Motion by Mrs. Dziuba:

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission approve the 2022 Cable Television Local Government Programming Services Independent Contractor Agreement with Motown Digital.”

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

The motion carried.

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Revision of 2022 GWBCCC Meeting Schedule

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

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission revise its 2022 meeting schedule by moving the starting time of each Commission meeting from 7:30PM to 7:00PM.”

In response to questions from Mrs. Macon, the Chairperson stated that an informal poll of commissioners indicated support for the change and added that the reason for the change is a general consensus among commissioners in support.

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

In response to a question from Mr. Krause, the Executive Director stated that a bill has been introduced in the Michigan Senate to allow the continuation of virtual meetings, but no bill has been introduced in the House and no action has been taken. With the ability to conduct virtual meetings ending on December 31, all public bodies will meet in-person starting January 1, 2022.

13. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by the Chairperson at 7:56PM.

The next meeting of the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission is **THURSDAY, JANUARY 13, 2022**, at **7:00PM** at **WEST BLOOMFIELD TOWN HALL**, 4550 Walnut Lake Road, West Bloomfield, Michigan.