



GREATER WEST BLOOMFIELD
**CABLE COMMUNICATIONS
COMMISSION**

KEEGO HARBOR • ORCHARD LAKE • SYLVAN LAKE • WEST BLOOMFIELD

MINUTES

February 10, 2022

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the Chairperson, Harvey Gersin, at 7:03PM at West Bloomfield Town Hall.

2. Roll Call

Members Present

Representing Orchard Lake:

Anne Dziuba
Dan Krause (arrived at 7:15PM)

Representing West Bloomfield:

Jennifer Boykins
Harvey Gersin
Suzanne Levine
Deborah Macon

Members Absent

Representing Sylvan Lake:

Phil Ross

Representing West Bloomfield:

Nada Jamoua
Mark Kowalsky

Others in Attendance

David Albery (Executive Director, GWBCCC)

3. Election of Officers

The Chairperson stated that the Commission's bylaws provide for the election of officers at the first regularly scheduled meeting each year, with one officer representing each of the four communities unless one of the communities has no representatives. He added that commissioners had been provided the results of a survey of members regarding officer positions as well as committee leadership.

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

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission elect its officers for 2022 as follows: Harvey Gersin of West Bloomfield as Chairperson, Anne Dziuba of Orchard Lake as Vice-Chairperson, Phil Ross of Sylvan Lake as Treasurer, and Nada Jamoua of West Bloomfield as Secretary.”

Voting YES: Boykins, Dziuba, Gersin, Levine, Macon

Voting NO:

The motion carried.

The Chairperson welcomed Jennifer Taylor Boykins, recently appointed as a commissioner representing West Bloomfield. She introduced herself, and the other commissioners introduced themselves to her.

4. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Mrs. Dziuba, support from Mrs. Macon:

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission approve the agenda as provided for the February 10, 2022 meeting.”

Voting YES: Boykins, Dziuba, Gersin, Levine, Macon

Voting NO:

The motion carried.

5. 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 rose to address the Commission.

6. Approval of Minutes

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

“That the Minutes of the December 2, 2021 meeting and the February 1, 2022 joint meeting be approved as presented.”

Voting YES: Boykins, Dziuba, Gersin, Levine, Macon

Voting NO:

The motion carried.

Mr. Krause arrived at 7:15PM.

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7. Acceptance of Financial Reports

The reports for January through December 2021 and January 2022 were summarized by the Executive Director.

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

“That the Financial Reports be accepted.”

Voting YES: Boykins, Dziuba, Gersin, Krause, Levine, Macon

Voting NO:

The motion carried.

8. 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 presented by Mr. Gersin, vice-chairperson of the committee.

Report of the Community Programming Committee

Commissioners were provided a written report which was summarized by Mrs. Dziuba, chairperson of the committee. Mr. Albery noted corrections to the report, specifically that the December 7, 2021 meeting was conducted via ZOOM and that the morning block of programming on Civic Center TV is 150 minutes long.

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

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission accept the reports of the Commission Operations and Strategic Planning and Community Programming committees as revised.”

Voting YES: Boykins, Dziuba, Gersin, Krause, Levine, Macon

Voting NO:

The motion carried.

9. Executive Director's Report

Civic Center TV/Lakes FM

Commissioners were provided a report of programming cablecast on Civic Center TV in

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December, January, and early February.

Commissioners were also provided a report from Motown Digital regarding the growth of Civic Center TV viewership, relevance, and economic stability. The Executive Director added that he is working with legal counsel on the formation of a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, with the IRS approval being the difficult task.

In response to a question from Mrs. Macon, the Executive Director stated that the Oakland County Megacast and the Michigan Megacast air every weekday from 10:00AM to 12 NOON.

Mrs. Macon stated that the Motown Digital report regarding Civic Center TV has significant implications for committees and presents opportunities to implement the Commission's strategic plan by serving vulnerable and underserved communities. She addressed the formation of a 501(c)(3) non-profit and stated that the process, which is not as difficult as characterized, should build on the vision, mission, values, and purpose of a group of volunteers. She added that the non-profit should be formed not only to apply for grants but also, perhaps more importantly, solicit donations from individuals and seek fees for provided services.

Cable Operators

Commissioners were provided copies of a communication from Benjamin Miller, the new Comcast liaison replacing Leslie Brogan, who has retired.

Report to the Four Communities

Members were provided copies of the report provided to Keego Harbor, Orchard Lake, Sylvan Lake, and West Bloomfield.

Cable Industry News

The total number of pay TV subscribers in the United States at the end of 2021 was 83 million. That number is projected to fall to 73 million by the end of 2024, with viewers of sports and live news the most likely to drop pay TV subscriptions.

Streaming subscriptions increased 20 percent in 2021, due mostly to the launch of Discovery+ and Paramount+.

A Harris poll conducted in mid-December revealed that streaming has slightly surpassed cable as the primary way that Americans watch television, with the gap wider for those under 35.

A report from the IT consulting company Accenture outlines complaints regarding streaming, specifically that it is more and more like cable, that is it is too expensive and includes too much content that is not relevant. Subscribers also find the navigation difficult, and 33 percent say they will decrease spending on streaming services in the next three months.

The Senate Commerce Committee has postponed a vote on the appointment of Gigi Sohn to the

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FCC, and several Republic senators have indicated they may place a hold on the nomination.

Communication

No communication was received.

Commission Assistance to Residents

A West Bloomfield resident had Comcast service installed in 2021 via an aerial drop. He contacted the Commission and asked that the drop be buried, and the buried drop was then disrupted by new home construction next door. The aerial drop was re-installed temporarily and has now been replaced by a permanent buried drop.

The Commission has received several inquiries lately about the lack of competition in the provision of cable and broadband service in the Greater West Bloomfield communities. Residents are informed that under federal and state law any company may provide service and that the Commission and the four communities would welcome the benefits that robust competition would bring to subscribers.

Preview

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

Mrs. Macon stated the importance of publicizing the Commission's success in supporting residents in their interaction with cable providers and its attempts to persuade Wide Open West to provide service to the Greater West Bloomfield communities.

Mrs. Dziuba stated that Orchard Lake residents have only once cable and internet option, AT&T not being available, and Mr. Krause stated that he has AT&T service in the city.

10. Unfinished Business

No items of Unfinished Business were presented.

11. New Business

Sunshine Week 2022

The Chairperson asked the Executive Director to present the "Resolution in Support of Sunshine Week 2022", a national program in support of open government and freedom of information.

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

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission adopt the ‘Resolution in Support of Sunshine Week 2022’ as provided.”

Mrs. Macon suggested that the resolution as adopted by the Commission be provided to the West Bloomfield Township Public Library, the West Bloomfield Parks and Recreation Commission, the seven school districts in Greater West Bloomfield, and the Oakland County Board of Commissioners.

Voting YES: Boykins, Dziuba, Gersin, Krause, Levine, Macon

Voting NO:

The motion carried.

Committee Appointments

The Chairperson stated that he is nominating Jennifer Taylor Boykins to replace Jonathan Warshay on the Finance Committee and Nada Jamoua as Vice-Chairperson of that committee.

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

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission affirm the Chairperson’s nomination of Commissioner Boykins to serve on the Finance Committee.”

Voting YES: Boykins, Dziuba, Gersin, Krause, Levine, Macon

Voting NO:

The motion carried.

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

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission affirm the Chairperson’s nomination of Commissioner Nada Jamoua to be Vice-Chairperson of the Finance Committee.”

Voting YES: Boykins, Dziuba, Gersin, Krause, Levine, Macon

Voting NO:

The motion carried.

12. 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. Persons unable to attend can contact the Commission at gwbcable.org.

No member of the public rose to address the Commission.

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13. Commissioner Comments

Mrs. Macon reported that nominations for Michigan Week are now open, with one new category and another renamed. The 50th Annual Community Awards Breakfast will be held on Friday, May 13.

She also mentioned Black History Month events sponsored by the Diversity Task Force.

14. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by the Chairperson at 8:10PM.

The next meeting of the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission is **THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 2022, at 7:00PM at WEST BLOOMFIELD TOWN HALL, 4550 Walnut Lake Road, West Bloomfield, Michigan.**