



GREATER WEST BLOOMFIELD CABLE COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

KEEGO HARBOR • ORCHARD LAKE • SYLVAN LAKE • WEST BLOOMFIELD

MINUTES

December 1, 2022

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the Chairperson, Harvey Gersin, at 7:00PM at West Bloomfield Town Hall.

2. Roll Call

Members Present

Representing Orchard Lake:

Anne Dziuba

Kevin Kroger

Representing Sylvan Lake:

Pat Riney

Phil Ross

Representing West Bloomfield:

Harvey Gersin

Suzanne Levine

Deborah Macon (arrived at 7:03PM)

Members Absent

Representing West Bloomfield:

Jennifer Boykins

Mark Kowalsky

Others in Attendance

Joseph Harris, Andrea Isom, David Albery (Executive Director, GWBCCC)

The Executive Director stated that Ms. Boykins and Mr. Kowalsky had communicated their inability to attend the meeting.

3. Approval of Agenda

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

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission approve the agenda as provided for the December 1, 2022 meeting.”

Voting YES: Dziuba, Gersin, Kroger, Levine, Riney, 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 at the beginning and the end of each meeting. He added that, pursuant to Commission guidelines, public comment is limited to three minutes, all comments should be directed to the Chairperson, and dialogue is not in order.

No member of the public rose to address the Commission.

Mrs. Macon arrived at 7:03PM.

5. Approval of Minutes

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

“That the Minutes of the October 13, 2022 meeting, the November 1, 2022 joint meeting, the November 7, 2022 joint meeting, the November 22, 2022 joint meeting, and the November 28, 2022 joint meeting be approved as presented.”

Motion by Mrs. Macon:

“That the Minutes of the November 22, 2022 joint meeting reflect comments by the Executive Director that the Alliance for Community Media recommends that community media operations form 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations.”

Discussion focused on whether those comments were made at the October 6 or November 22 Finance Committee meeting. The motion failed for lack of support.

The Chairperson re-stated the main motion.

“That the Minutes of the October 13, 2022 meeting, the November 1, 2022 joint meeting, the November 7, 2022 joint meeting, the November 22, 2022 joint meeting, and the November 28, 2022 joint meeting be approved as presented.”

Voting YES: Dziuba, Gersin, Kroger, Levine, Macon, Riney, Ross
Voting NO:

The motion carried.

6. Acceptance of Financial Reports

The expenditure report for January through November and the revenue report for the third quarter of 2022 were summarized by the Executive Director.

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

“That the Financial Reports be accepted.”

Voting YES: Dziuba, Gersin, Kroger, Levine, Macon, Riney, Ross

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.

Committee Recommendation:

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission approve its 2023 Cable Television Local Government Programming Services Independent Contractor Agreement with Michigan Digital.”

Report of the Commission Operations and Strategic Planning Committee

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

Committee Recommendations:

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission approve its 2023 Executive Director Agreement with Cable Commission Consulting, LLC as presented.”

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission revise its governance documents as recommended by the Commission Operations and Strategic Planning Committee.”

In response to a question from Mrs. Dziuba, the Executive Director stated that the weekly update is being provided to commissioners who present it periodically to the four governing bodies.

Mrs. Macon suggested that all elected officials in the four Greater West Bloomfield communities be invited to attend the February 9, 2023 Commission meeting, at which Steve Spreitzer and Freda Sampson of the Michigan Roundtable will provide a presentation regarding diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Report of the Finance Committee

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

Strategic Plan Implementation 2022

Commissioners were provided a written update regarding implementation of the Commission's strategic plan.

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

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

Voting YES: Dziuba, Gersin, Kroger, Levine, Macon, Riney, Ross

Voting NO:

The motion carried.

8. Executive Director's Report

Civic Center TV/Lakes FM

Commissioners were provided a written report of programming cablecast on Civic Center TV in October and November.

Mr. Scott addressed the Commission regarding the operation of Civic Center TV and Lakes FM, focusing on the Heroes Appreciation event on November 8, a new history of the Pleasant Lake neighborhood written by local residents Gina and Rob Gregory, the West Bloomfield Schools bond proposal on the May 2023 ballot, the “Sylvan Story” history series, produced and presented by Helen Jane Peters, and a Splash Live interview with Dan Tryban who sells Christmas trees at Orchard Lake St. Mary's every year, trees grown at his farm in Cheboygan. He also highlighted League of Women Voters candidate forums cablecast on Civic Center TV in the fall, a Splash Live interview with West Bloomfield football head coach Tyrice Grice just after former Laker star Donovan Edwards had an outstanding performance for the University of Michigan, and an interview with West Bloomfield High School vocal music director Sheryl Hauk regarding her students' recent performance at Carnegie Hall in New York City.

Mr. Scott reported Michigan Digital's involvement in an upcoming Michigan Association of Broadcasters recruitment event and job fair at Ford Field.

Cable Operators

Commissioners were provided copies of communications from Comcast regarding its liaison to the Commission and price increases taking effect in 2023. The Executive Director noted that the new liaison is Eric Woody, who in the past participated in the Commission's Cable Community Panel as a representative of Beaumont, his former employer.

Election of Officers

The Executive Director reminded the Commission that, pursuant to its bylaws, the election of officers will occur at the beginning of the January 12, 2023 Commission meeting. Commissioners will be asked in advance to indicate their interest in and availability for election to office, and a summary of those responses will be provided in advance on the January 12 meeting.

2023 GWBCCC Budget

The budget was approved unanimously by each of the four governing bodies, the West Bloomfield Township Board on October 10, the Sylvan Lake City Council on October 12, the Orchard Lake City Council on October 17, and the Keego Harbor City Council on October 20.

Cable Industry News

Comcast will increase the fee paid by subscribers to receive broadcast television stations as part of their cable service in 2023, despite the fact that both cable subscriptions and the viewing of broadcast television have decreased. That fee is one of several that are not included in any Comcast long-term rate guarantees.

From October of 2021 to October of 2022, pay television subscriptions dropped 8 percent, while Comcast lost over 10 percent of its subscribers.

Americans are not only cutting the cord on cable but actually losing consciousness of its very existence. 73 percent of those 45 and older are cable subscribers, while the number is 57 percent for those ages 18 to 44.

The cable industry has always assumed that live sports is a major reason subscribers do not cancel their subscriptions, but a new survey has found that only 8 percent would discontinue service if all live sports coverage was moved to streaming services.

The National Association of Broadcasters has asked the FCC to re-open a proceeding to determine whether streaming services are multi-channel video programming distributors and therefore subject to must-carry and re-transmission consent rules. The proceeding began in 2014 and has been stalled, with no Commission decision.

A coalition of organizations are urging the Senate to approve the nomination of Gigi Sohn to the FCC, stating that a less than fully functioning Commission is not acceptable

FCC Commissioners Geoffrey Starks has proposed the use of broadcast signals to deliver streaming content in order to promote diversity through use of a less expensive technology.

Communication

No communication was received.

Commission Assistance to Residents

All recent situations communicated to the Commission have involved infrastructure, including a small subdivision off of Long Lake Road and the Greenpoint Condominium complex at 14 Mile Road and Halstead. The Commission is working with Comcast and AT&T regarding resolution.

Preview

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

In response to a question from Mrs. Macon, the Executive Director stated that 2023 Commission and committee meeting schedules were provided to commissioners on November 19. Mrs. Macon suggested content for new Cable Commission business cards.

9. Unfinished Business

No items of Unfinished Business were presented.

10. New Business

Recommendation of the Finance Committee - Commission Intent to Incorporate a Non-Profit Organization and Achieve Internal Revenue Service 501(c)(3) Tax- Exempt Status

The Chairperson presented the recommendation and noted that as a committee recommendation, it does not require support.

Motion by Mr. Ross:

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission, at its December 1, 2022 meeting, express its intent to incorporate a non-profit organization under the laws of the State of Michigan and achieve Internal Revenue Service 501(c)(3) tax exempt status for the organization.”

Mrs. Macon stated that this initiative will open up new opportunities for the Commission and its programming resources. Mr. Scott added that it will be beneficial to the operation of Civic Center TV and Lakes FM.

Voting YES: Dziuba, Gersin, Kroger, Levine, Macon, Riney, Ross

Voting NO:

The motion carried.

Recommendation of the Commission Operations and Strategic Planning Committee - 2023 Executive Director Independent Contractor Agreement

The Chairperson presented the recommendation and noted that as a committee recommendation, it does not require support.

Motion by Mr. Gersin:

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission approve its 2023 Executive Director Agreement with Cable Commission Consulting, LLC as presented.”

The Executive Director stated that all changes from the 2022 agreement are either struck out or noted in bold and underlined.

Voting YES: Dziuba, Gersin, Kroger, Levine, Macon, Riney, Ross

Voting NO:

The motion carried.

Recommendation of the Commission Operations and Strategic Planning Committee - Revision of GWBCCC Governance Documents

The Chairperson presented the recommendation and noted that this agenda item constitutes the first reading of amendments to the bylaws, which will receive second reading and consideration of approval at the next Commission meeting on January 12, 2023. He also noted that as a committee recommendation, it does not require support.

Motion by Mr. Gersin:

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission revise its governance documents, with the exception of the bylaws, as recommended by the Commission Operations and Strategic Planning Committee.”

The Chairperson stated that all changes are either struck out or noted in bold and underlined.

Voting YES: Dziuba, Gersin, Kroger, Levine, Macon, Riney, Ross

Voting NO:

The motion carried.

Recommendation of the Community Programming Committee - 2023 Cable Television Local Government Programming Services Independent Contractor Agreement

The Chairperson presented the recommendation and noted that as a committee recommendation, it does not require support.

Motion by Mrs. Dziuba:

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission approve its 2023 Cable Television Local Government Programming Services Independent Contractor Agreement with Michigan Digital as presented.”

Voting YES: Dziuba, Gersin, Kroger, Levine, Macon, Riney, 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. Those unable to attend should contact the Commission at gwbcable.org.

No member of the public rose to address the Commission.

12. Commissioner Comments

The Chairperson stated after serving twelve years as Commission Chairperson, he will not be a candidate for re-election to the position in 2023. He asked that commissioners consider indicating their availability to fill that role next year and added that he will continue as a representative of West Bloomfield and will provide support services as he has done in the past.

Mrs. Dziuba asked all commissioners to express their appreciation for the Chairperson’s service.

Mr. Ross thanked the Chairperson for his years of service and guidance. He added that when his Comcast bill increased by 50 dollars a month recently, he called customer service and negotiated a new deal which decreased his bill and provided faster internet service.

Ms. Levine expressed her gratitude for the Chairperson’s leadership and reported several upcoming Chamber events, including “Cup of Connections” at Marshbank on December 2, a ribbon-cutting for a new café in the Jewish Senior Life building on December 5, and the installation of the 2023 Chamber Board of Directors on January 13.

Mrs. Macon previewed United We Walk events in January, “An Evening with Rochelle Riley” on the 12th in the evening at West Bloomfield Middle School and the traditional event on Sunday the 15th in the afternoon at the same location. She added that the annual Greater West Bloomfield Michigan Week Community Awards Breakfast will occur on Friday, May 12, at Temple Israel and that nominations awards will begin in January. She also reported that the plaque celebrating fifty years of Michigan Week in Greater West Bloomfield will be unveiled in the spring at the library main entrance.

Mrs. Dziuba noted how the Commission has benefitted and will continue to benefit from the Chairperson's professional experience and expertise, and Mr. Scott stated that he has appreciated working with the Chairperson, whose decades of work television news has benefitted Michigan Digital.

13. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by the Chairperson at 8:14PM.

The next meeting of the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission is **THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, 2023**, at **7:00PM** at **WEST BLOOMFIELD TOWN HALL**, 4550 Walnut Lake Road, West Bloomfield, Michigan.