



GREATER WEST BLOOMFIELD CABLE COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

KEEGO HARBOR • ORCHARD LAKE • SYLVAN LAKE • WEST BLOOMFIELD

MINUTES

January 12, 2023

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:

Kevin Kroger

Representing Sylvan Lake:

Pat Riney

Phil Ross

Representing West Bloomfield:

Harvey Gersin

Mark Kowalsky

Suzanne Levine

Deborah Macon

Members Absent

Representing Orchard Lake:

Anne Dziuba

Representing West Bloomfield:

Jennifer Boykins

Stuart Dorf

Others in Attendance

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

The Executive Director stated that Ms. Boykins and Mr. Dorf had communicated their inability to attend the meeting. The Chairperson added that Mrs. Dziuba had also let him know that she would be absent.

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 January 12, 2023 meeting.”

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

Voting NO:

The motion carried.

4. Election of Officers

Commissioners were provided a report of responses to a Commission survey regarding interest in and availability for election to an officer position, and the Chairperson noted that those results indicate a slate of officers for election consisting of Jennifer Taylor Boykins of West Bloomfield as Chairperson, Anne Dziuba of Orchard Lake as Vice-Chairperson, Harvey Gersin of West Bloomfield as Secretary, and Phil Ross of Sylvan Lake as Treasurer. He stated that the Commission’s bylaws dictate that one officer be elected from each of the four communities unless a community has no representation, in which case two officers may be elected from the same community.

Mrs. Macon stated that no support for the motion to elect is needed.

Motion by Mrs. Macon:

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission elect as officers for 2023 Ms. Boykins as Chairperson, Mrs. Dziuba as Vice-Chairperson, Mr. Gersin as Secretary, and Mr. Ross as Treasurer.”

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

Voting NO:

The motion carried.

Mrs. Macon noted that the new Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson being absent, the new Secretary, Mr. Gersin, would continue to chair the meeting.

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.

Ms. Isom stated that she is co-owner of OHmeoMI Productions, which has submitted to the Commission a proposal to provide social media original content and distribution services. She added that she and her husband, Joseph Harris, are West Bloomfield residents and have attended numerous Commission and committee meetings. She stated that some of the Commission’s social media posts are months old and that her company would like to get involved in telling the communities’ story. She stated that the company would like an opportunity to show the Commission what it can provide and thanked members for consideration of its proposal.

6. Approval of Minutes

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

“That the Minutes of the December 1, 2022 meeting be approved as presented.”

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

Voting NO:

The motion carried.

7. Acceptance of Financial Report

The report for January through December of 2022 was summarized by the Executive Director. He added that the report is not the final report for 2022, with several 2022 expenditures being processed this month.

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

“That the Financial Report be accepted.”

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

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 summarized by Mr. Kowalsky, the committee chairperson.

Committee Recommendation:

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission approve the ‘Resolution in Support of Sunshine Week 2023’ ”.

Strategic Plan Implementation 2023

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

Motion by Mr. Riney, support from Mr. Kowalsky:

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

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

Voting NO:

The motion carried.

9. Executive Director's Report

Civic Center TV/Lakes FM

Commissioners were provided a written report of programming cablecast on Civic Center TV in December and early January. The Executive Director added to upcoming programming the Laker Classic MLK Basketball Tournament at West Bloomfield High School on Monday, January 16. In response to a question from Mrs. Macon, the Executive Director stated that a West Bloomfield High School student will be working on the basketball coverage.

Cable Operators

Commissioners were provided copies of a communication from Comcast.

GWBCCC Directory

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

Cable Industry News

6.2 percent of all cable subscribers in the U.S. dropped the service in the third quarter of 2022, the highest rate ever. 61 percent of U.S. homes now subscribe to a pay TV service, the same percentage as 1993.

The publication NexTV predicts that one major cable operator will leave the cable business in 2023 and points out that with ownership of NBC and multiple basic cable networks, Comcast will not be the company to exit.

Gigi Sohn has been nominated to the FCC for the third time by President Biden. Opponents, including Republican members of the U.S. Senate and Fox News, are gearing up the opposition to the nomination, and Democrats and public interest groups are lining up in support. To have a floor vote on the floor, either the Senate Commerce Committee will need to advance the

nomination or the full Senate will have to vote to discharge it.

Communication

No communication was received.

Commission Assistance to Residents

An Orchard Lake resident has contacted the Commission regarding a cable lying across her driveway, and the Commission has asked Comcast to bury that cable.

A West Bloomfield resident has contacted the Commission regarding on-line access to his cable service, and the Commission has asked Comcast to consult with the subscriber and resolve the situation.

Mr. Kowalsky stated that not all channels are available on-line, and Mr. Ross added that local broadcast channels are excluded.

Preview

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

10. Unfinished Business

Second Reading – Amendment of GWBCCC Bylaws

The Chairperson stated that the proposed revisions, recommended by the Commission Operations and Strategic Planning Committee, received first reading on December 1 and that the second reading and a vote will occur at this meeting. He added that revisions are noted in the document and that as a committee recommendation, support is not required.

Motion by Mr. Kowalsky:

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

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

Voting NO:

Two-thirds of the Commission having voted in the affirmative, the motion carried.

11. New Business

Recommendation of the Commission Operations and Strategic Planning Committee – Resolution in Support of Sunshine Week 2023

Mr. Gersin stated that Sunshine Week is an annual national event, occurring this year from March 12 to 18.

The Executive Director read the resolution.

Motion by Mr. Kowalsky:

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission approve the ‘Resolution in Support of Sunshine Week 2023.’ ”

In response to a question from Mrs. Macon, the Executive Director stated that the resolution is provided to the seven Greater West Bloomfield school districts, as well as the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Library Board, as an information item. He added that Civic Center TV will publicize Sunshine Week, especially at the fifth annual State of the Communities event on March 13.

Mr. Kowalsky stated his position that the resolution should be provided to other governmental bodies as an information item and not a recommendation regarding their position on the issue. Mrs. Macon stated her understanding that only the cities will be urged to adopt the resolution.

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

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

No member of the public rose to address the Commission.

13. Commissioner Comments

Mr. Kowalsky thanked Mr. Gersin for his dozen years of professionalism, dedication, and service as Chairperson.

Ms. Levine also commended Mr. Gersin's service as Chairperson. She added that the Chamber of Commerce installation of officers will take place at 8:00AM on January 13 at Avalon of Commerce Township and will be covered live on Civic Center TV and Lakes FM.

Mr. Macon noted the event in recognition of the life of Pastor Jack Freed on January 19 at 5:00PM at West Bloomfield Middle School. Civic Center and Lakes FM will provide coverage.

14. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by the Chairperson at 7:45PM.

The next meeting of the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission is **THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2023**, at **7:00PM** at **WEST BLOOMFIELD TOWN HALL**, 4550 Walnut Lake Road, West Bloomfield, Michigan.