



GREATER WEST BLOOMFIELD CABLE COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

KEEGO HARBOR • ORCHARD LAKE • SYLVAN LAKE • WEST BLOOMFIELD

MINUTES

March 9, 2023

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the Chairperson, Jennifer Taylor Boykins, 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:

Jennifer Boykins

Stuart Dorf

Harvey Gersin

Mark Kowalsky

Suzanne Levine

Deborah Macon

Others in Attendance

David Albery (Executive Director, GWBCCC)

The Chairperson welcomed Mr. Dorf as the newest member of the Commission. At her invitation, he introduced himself, and other commissioners introduced themselves to him.

3. Approval of Agenda

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

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission approve the agenda as provided for the March 9, 2023 meeting.”

Voting YES: Boykins, Dorf, Dziuba, Gersin, Kowalsky, Kroger, Levine, Macon, Riney, Ross

Voting NO:

The motion carried.

4. Public Comment

No member of the public rose to address the Commission.

5. Approval of Minutes

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

“That the Minutes of the February 9, 2023 meeting be approved as presented.”

Voting YES: Boykins, Dorf, Dziuba, Gersin, Kowalsky, Kroger, Levine, Macon, Riney, Ross

Voting NO:

The motion carried.

6. Acceptance of Financial Reports

The report for January and February and the report of fourth quarter 2022 payments from cable operators were summarized by the Executive Director.

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

“That the Financial Reports be accepted.”

Voting YES: Boykins, Dorf, Dziuba, Gersin, Kowalsky, 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 Commission Operations and Strategic Planning Committee

Commissioners were provided a written report which was summarized by Mr. Kowalsky, the committee chairperson.

Report of the Executive Committee

Commissioners were provided a written report which was summarized by Ms. Boykins, the committee chairperson.

Report of the Finance Committee

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

Report of the Community Programming Committee

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

Mrs. Macon stated her hope that stories behind Michigan Week award submissions will be reflected in Civic Center TV programming. Mrs. Dziuba added that programming should be story-driven and that those stories are important.

Strategic Plan Implementation 2023

Commissioners were provided a written update regarding 2023 implementation of the Commission's strategic plan.

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

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission accept the reports of the Commission Operations and Strategic Planning, Executive, Finance, and Community Programming committees, as well as the strategic plan implementation update.”

Voting YES: Boykins, Dorf, Dziuba, Gersin, Kowalsky, 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 February.

Cable Operators

Commissioners were provided copies of a communication from Comcast regarding channel line-up changes.

GWBCCC Directory

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

Cable Industry News

Gigi Sohn has asked President Biden to withdraw her nomination to the Federal Communications Commission, characterizing the sixteen-month battle over her confirmation as a series of “unrelenting, dishonest and cruel attacks”. The FCC continues to be deadlocked, with two Democratic members and two Republican members, with no expectation of movement on issues such as net neutrality and the Commission’s 2019 franchise fee order.

The “Protecting Community Television Act” introduced by Senators Markey (D-MA) and Baldwin (D-WI) would, if enacted, clarify the term “franchise fees” and void the 2019 order.

Comcast lost 11.2 percent of its video subscribers in 2022, a record high. Industry wide, the loss of subscribers was 6 percent and is predicted to be 7 percent this year.

Traditional linear TV viewing decreased 2 percent in the second half of 2022, with less than half of all U.S. households watching linear TV on a daily basis.

The growth of streaming video slowed in the last quarter of 2022 and is predicted to slow even more this year.

Communication

No communication was received.

Commission Assistance to Residents

Several residents calling the Commission regarding customer service and billing issues have been advised to visit the Xfinity store on Telegraph in Bloomfield Township, with generally positive results.

At the Commission’s request, Comcast completed the burial of cable in two locations in January, one being a very complicated project off Long Lake Road just east of Orchard Lake Road.

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

No items of New Business were presented.

11. Public Comment

No member of the public rose to address the Commission.

The Chairperson stated that residents unable to attend a meeting should contact the Commission at gwbcable.org.

12. Commissioner Comments

Mrs. Macon mentioned the Commission's "State of the Communities" event at 7:00PM on Monday, March 13 and suggested that commissioners arrive at West Bloomfield Middle School at 6:45 to act as greeters.

She also mentioned a community needs assessment occurring at the West Bloomfield Township Public Library on Saturday, March 18 and World Sabbath at Temple Israel on Sunday, March 19.

Mrs. Macon solicited sponsorships for the Greater West Bloomfield Michigan Week Community Awards Breakfast on May 12 and added that the Commission is being recognized as the lead sponsor for its contribution of in-kind services.

Mr. Levine stated that several new businesses are opening in West Bloomfield and that the ribbon-cuttings are listed on the Chamber of Commerce web site. She urged everyone to sign up for the Chamber's newsletter and added that the 14th Annual Health and Wellness Fair will be held at West Bloomfield Town Hall from 11:00AM to 2:00PM on June 14.

13. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by the Chairperson at 7:55PM.

The next meeting of the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission is **THURSDAY, APRIL 13, 2023, at 7:00PM at WEST BLOOMFIELD TOWN HALL, 4550 Walnut Lake Road, West Bloomfield, Michigan.**