



GREATER WEST BLOOMFIELD CABLE COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

KEEGO HARBOR • ORCHARD LAKE • SYLVAN LAKE • WEST BLOOMFIELD

MINUTES

April 13, 2023

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the Vice-Chairperson, Anne Dziuba, at 7:00PM at West Bloomfield Town Hall.

2. Roll Call

Members Present

Representing Orchard Lake:

Anne Dziuba

Kevin Kroger

Representing Sylvan Lake:

Phil Ross

Representing West Bloomfield:

Harvey Gersin

Mark Kowalsky

Suzanne Levine

Deborah Macon (arrived at 7:04PM)

Members Absent

Representing Sylvan Lake:

Pat Riney

Representing West Bloomfield:

Jennifer Boykins

Stuart Dorf

Others in Attendance

David Albery (Executive Director, GWBCCC)

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

3. Approval of Agenda

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

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission approve the agenda as provided for the April 13, 2023 meeting.”

Voting YES: Dziuba, Gersin, Kowalsky, Kroger, Levine, 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. Ross, support from Ms. Levine:

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

Voting YES: Dziuba, Gersin, Kowalsky, Kroger, Levine, Ross
Voting NO:

The motion carried.

Mrs. Macon arrived at 7:04PM.

6. Acceptance of Financial Report

The report for January through March 2023 was summarized by the Executive Director.

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

“That the Financial Report be accepted.”

Voting YES: Dziuba, Gersin, Kowalsky, Kroger, Levine, Macon, 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 Community Programming Committee

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

Strategic Plan Implementation 2023

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

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

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

Voting YES: Dziuba, Gersin, Kowalsky, Kroger, Levine, Macon, 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 March.

Cable Operators

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

Cable Industry News

Following the withdrawal of the nomination of Gigi Sohn to the FCC, a few names have surfaced as possible presidential nominees to fill the open seat on the Commission. Those being mentioned are not household names but have substantial federal government experience in both the executive and legislative branches.

The chairperson of the Commission has proposed a rule mandating transparency in subscriber billing for cable television services with a clear bottom-line price and specificity regarding taxes, fees, and surcharges.

The Affordable Connectivity Program, which provides broadband service to qualifying households at a 30 dollars per month discount, has now enrolled 17 million families across the country, and the FCC is working to increase that number through a simpler application process.

87 percent of U.S. homes with an internet connection subscribe to at least one streaming service, and 44 percent of those homes also watch linear pay TV.

The revenue that broadcast television stations receive from pay TV operators for inclusion of their signals in cable service increased 3 percent over the past year despite the fact that broadcast viewership and pay TV subscriptions have decreased.

Communication

No communication was received.

Commission Assistance to Residents

The Commission is assisting an Orchard Lake resident who reported lawn damage caused by a Comcast truck.

The Commission is working with West Bloomfield regarding several AT&T infrastructure problems in the Township.

Comcast, at the request of the Commission, worked with a subscriber whose promotional rate had expired and instituted a new promotional offer.

A resident with an email issue was directed by the Commission to the Xfinity store in Bloomfield Township, where staff was able to resolve the problem.

Preview

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

In response to a question from Mr. Kowalsky, the Executive Director stated that although AT&T is no longer marketing its U-verse cable television product, it is offering internet service to residents.

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 Vice-Chairperson stated that comments are always welcome at gwbccable.org.

12. Commissioner Comments

Mrs. Macon stated that April is Global Volunteer Month and that the week of April 17-23 is National Volunteer Week.

She invited all commissioners to the May 4 meeting of the Clergy Association and Community Forum at the Recreation Activities Center, which will celebrate the National Day of Prayer on that day. She also noted the Michigan Week Community Awards Breakfast on May 12, with registration required at a cost of 30 dollars. She added that residents from all four Greater West Bloomfield communities are being honored.

Mrs. Macon also mentioned the handbook for members of boards and commissions on the City of Keego Harbor web site.

Mrs. Macon mentioned the United Way of Southeast Michigan 21-day Equity Challenge in May and June and asked that the initiative be placed on the agendas for the May 1 meeting of the Commission Operations and Strategic Planning Committee and the May 11 Commission meeting. She noted the recent release of new ALICE (asset limited, income constrained, employed) figures for Greater West Bloomfield.

In response to a question from the Executive Director, Mrs. Macon stated that the May 4 event is both the monthly meeting of the Clergy Association and Community Forum and the local celebration of the National Day of Prayer.

13. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by the Chairperson at 7:41PM.

The next meeting of the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission is **THURSDAY, MAY 11, 2023, at 7:00PM at WEST BLOOMFIELD TOWN HALL, 4550 Walnut Lake Road, West Bloomfield, Michigan.**