



# GREATER WEST BLOOMFIELD CABLE COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

KEEGO HARBOR • ORCHARD LAKE • SYLVAN LAKE • WEST BLOOMFIELD

## MINUTES

June 8, 2023

### 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the Chairperson, Jennifer Taylor Boykins, at 7:01PM at West Bloomfield Town Hall.

### 2. Roll Call

#### Members Present

Representing Orchard Lake:

Anne Dziuba

Representing Sylvan Lake:

Pat Riney

Phil Ross

Representing West Bloomfield:

Jennifer Boykins

Harvey Gersin

Suzanne Levine

Deborah Macon (arrived at 7:05PM)

#### Members Absent

Representing Orchard Lake:

Kevin Kroger

Representing West Bloomfield:

Stuart Dorf

Mark Kowalsky

#### Others in Attendance

David Albery (Executive Director, GWBCCC)

The Executive Director stated that Mr. Kowalsky and Mr. Kroger had communicated their inability to attend this meeting, and Mrs. Macon indicated that she is running late.

### 3. Approval of Agenda

The Chairperson suggested revising the agenda to add the scheduling of the Commission's August meeting under New Business.

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

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission approve the agenda as revised for the June 8, 2023 meeting.”

Voting YES: Boykins, Dziuba, Gersin, 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. Those unable to attend should contact the Commission at gwbcable.org.

No member of the public rose to address the Commission.

#### **5. Approval of Minutes**

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

“That the Minutes of the May 11, 2023 meeting and the May 23, 2023 joint meeting be approved as presented.”

Voting YES: Boykins, Dziuba, Gersin, Levine, Riney, Ross

Voting NO:

The motion carried.

#### **6. Acceptance of Financial Reports**

The report for January through May 2023 and the report of first quarter cable operator payments were summarized by the Executive Director.

Mrs. Macon arrived at 7:05PM

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

“That the Financial Reports be accepted.”

Voting YES: Boykins, Dziuba, Gersin, 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 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.

### Strategic Plan Implementation 2023

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

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

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

Voting YES: Boykins, Dziuba, Gersin, 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 May.

### Cable Operators

Members were provided copies of a communication from Comcast regarding subscriber charges.

### GWBCCC Directory

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

### Cable Industry News

President Biden has nominated Anna Gomez, Geoffrey Starks, and Brendan Carr to the Federal Communications Commission. Starks, a Democrat, and Carr, a Republican, are re-appointments, while Gomez, a Democrat, is a new appointment to fill the long-vacant fifth seat on the Commission. She is a long-time DC insider, having worked at the National Telecommunications Information Administration in the Obama administration. A number of trade associations are urging the Senate to confirm all three appointments quickly, citing the need for a functional FCC to ensure certainty and stability in telecommunications regulation.

Thus far in 2023, broadcast television is slightly down while cable viewing is slightly up. Year to year, cable is down 12 percent, broadcast down 4.

The American Customer Satisfaction Index has once again recognized AT&T's U-verse as number 1 in customer satisfaction among telecommunications services, despite the fact that the company has not offered U-Verse since 2020. Subscribers rate Comcast near the bottom.

### Communication

No communication was received.

### Commission Assistance to Residents

The commission is assisting residents in facilitating the burial of unburied cable, one belonging to Comcast and one to AT&T.

A subscriber whose lawn was flagged for underground work last year, which never occurred, and was flagged again this spring inquired of the Commission whether the work would occur this year. Comcast responded to a Commission inquiry, stating that the flags should be removed.

The Commission is continuing to work with West Bloomfield regarding AT&T infrastructure problems around the Township.

### Preview

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

Mr. Ross noted that Comcast is now charging its subscribers for the premium streaming service

Peacock, which the company had been providing at no cost.

In response to a question from Mrs. Macon, the Executive Director stated that his tenure on the NATOA Board of Directors ends on October 5. She asked that the Commission formulate some type of recognition of his service.

## **9. Unfinished Business**

No items of Unfinished Business were presented.

## **10. New Business**

### August GWBCCC Meeting

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

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission move its August 2023 meeting from August 10 to August 1 and hold that meeting at the Sylvan Lake Community Center.”

Mrs. Macon stated that she is looking forward to Commission reflection and self-assessment to be conducted at that meeting under the direction of the Executive Committee. The Executive Director added that commissioners should feel free to invite neighbors, friends, and significant others to the meeting.

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

Voting NO:

The motion carried.

## **11. Commissioner Comments**

Ms. Levine invited all Commissioners and all those viewing the meeting to the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Health and Wellness event at West Bloomfield Town Hall on June 14.

Mrs. Macon noted the West Bloomfield Youth Assistance Food Truck Rally on June 10 at Orchard Mall, and the Executive Director added that one week later, on June 17, “Juneteenth in the WB” will be celebrated at West Bloomfield High School.

Mr. Ross stated that food trucks will be at the Sylvan Lake Community Center over the coming weekend.

## **13. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned by the Chairperson at 7:40PM.

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