



GREATER WEST BLOOMFIELD CABLE COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

KEEGO HARBOR • ORCHARD LAKE • SYLVAN LAKE • WEST BLOOMFIELD

MINUTES

October 12, 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:

Jackie Beach

Anne Dziuba

Representing West Bloomfield:

Jennifer Boykins

Harvey Gersin

Mark Kowalsky

Suzanne Levine

Deborah Macon

Members Absent

Representing Sylvan Lake:

Pat Riney

Phil Ross

Representing West Bloomfield:

Stuart Dorf

Others in Attendance

David Albery (Executive Director, GWBCCC)

The Executive Director stated that Mr. Ross, Mr. Riney, and Mr. Dorf had communicated their inability to attend the meeting.

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 October 12, 2023 meeting.”

Voting YES: Beach, Boykins, Dziuba, Gersin, Kowalsky, Levine, Macon

Voting NO:

The motion carried.

4. Public Comment

The Chairperson noted that no member of the public was in attendance to provide comment added that those unable to attend should contact the Commission at gwbcable.org.

5. Approval of Minutes

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

“That the Minutes of the September 14, 2023 meeting, the October 9, 2023 joint meeting, and the October 10, 2023 joint meeting be approved as presented.”

Voting YES: Beach, Boykins, Dziuba, Gersin, Kowalsky, Levine, Macon

Voting NO:

The motion carried.

6. Acceptance of Financial Report

The report was summarized by the Executive Director.

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

“That the Financial Report be accepted.”

Voting YES: Beach, Boykins, Dziuba, Gersin, Kowalsky, Levine, Macon

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. The Executive Director stated that design work on Commission badges and business cards is being done by Mr. Gersin.

Report of the Community Programming Committee

Commissioners were provided a written report which was summarized by Mrs. Dziuba, the committee chairperson. She added that the committee also established the structure for implementation of the Commission's strategic plan in 2024.

Strategic Plan Implementation 2023

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

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

“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: Beach, Boykins, Dziuba, Gersin, Kowalsky, Levine, Macon

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 September.

Cable Operators

Commissioners were provided copies of a communication from Comcast regarding cost changes.

Cable Industry News

A survey of cable subscribers has revealed that ESPN, ESPN 2, and Disney Channel are the top three “must-have” channels, followed by the Weather Channel, the Food Network, History Channel, and National Geographic. Fifty percent of those surveyed rated ESPN as the most important service. Not all content available on the top 50 “must-have” channels is available via streaming.

Traditional pay TV (cable, telco, satellite) is now in 49 percent of U.S. homes, compared to 57 percent in 2021 and 74 percent in 2018.

Linear television viewing was under 50 percent of all viewing in July and back above 50 percent in August.

US News and World Report 360 Reviews reports that 61 percent of Americans struggle to pay their monthly internet bill. Costs of 20 to 60 dollars a month when subscribers signed up are now 41 to 80 dollars. Subscribers also reported data speeds slower than advertised, and a majority stated that they would be willing to pay 10 dollars a month more for faster service.

Communication

No communication was received.

Commission Assistance to Residents

The Commission has been assisting a resident with an on-going internet problem which has not yet been resolved despite three service calls by Comcast technicians.

Subscribers have contacted the Commission with concerns regarding billing issues, most due to the expiration of promotional rates. With multiple components on a monthly bill, it is often difficult to pinpoint the source of a rate increase, a problem the FCC is considering addressing through rule making regarding bottom-line pricing.

The Commission has been assisting residents who have expressed concern regarding open and damaged Comcast and AT&T pedestals. Although electrical shock is not a threat, the damaged units are an eyesore.

Preview

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

In reference to the item about the cost of internet service, Mrs. Macon asked whether there is interest by the Chairperson, committees, elected officials, or the community regarding an effort to gather information regarding those in Greater West Bloomfield who may qualify for the Affordable Connectivity Program.

In response to a question from Mrs. Macon regarding the raising public awareness of the ACP, the Executive Director stated that the program will be featured on a upcoming Splash Live segment. Mrs. Macon stated that the commissioners should be advocates for the Affordable Connectivity Program and that the Commission should have internal dialog regarding the program.

In response to a question from the Chairperson, the Executive Director stated that she will need to decide how the Commission approaches the issue of identifying those residents who may qualify for the ACP.

9. Unfinished Business

No items of Unfinished Business were presented.

10. New Business

2024 GWBCCC Meeting Schedule

Commissioners were provided a proposed schedule of Commission and committee meetings in 2024. The Executive Director reported one revision to the schedules provided. Discussion focused on the scheduling of the April Commission meeting in light of the fact that the West Bloomfield Town Hall meeting room is not available on Thursday, April 11.

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

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission approve its 2024 meeting schedules as presented and subsequently revised to reflect the Commission meeting on April 4, 2024 and the Commission Operations and Strategic Planning Committee meeting on February 12.”

Mrs. Macon stated that the Finance Committee should meet more often than quarterly.

Voting YES: Beach, Boykins, Dorf, Dziuba, Gersin, Kowalsky, Levine, Macon

Voting NO:

The motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Macon:

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission revise its 2024 schedule of meetings to include monthly meetings of the Finance Committee.”

The motion received no support.

11. Commissioner Comments

Mrs. Dziuba commended the Executive Director’s recently completed term of office as a member of the NATOA Board of Directors.

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by the Chairperson at 7:43PM.

The next meeting of the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission is **THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2023, at 7:00PM at WEST BLOOMFIELD TOWN HALL, 4550 Walnut Lake Road, West Bloomfield, Michigan.**