



# GREATER WEST BLOOMFIELD CABLE COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

KEEGO HARBOR • ORCHARD LAKE • SYLVAN LAKE • WEST BLOOMFIELD

## MINUTES

November 30, 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

Representing Sylvan Lake:

Pat Riney

Phil Ross

Representing West Bloomfield:

Jennifer Boykins

Harvey Gersin

Mark Kowalsky

Suzanne Levine

Deborah Macon

#### Members Absent

Representing Orchard Lake:

Jackie Beach

Representing West Bloomfield:

Stuart Dorf

#### Others in Attendance

David Albery (Executive Director, GWBCCC)

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

### 3. Approval of Agenda

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

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission approve the agenda as provided for the November 30, 2023 meeting.”

Voting YES: Boykins, Dziuba, Gersin, Kowalsky, Levine, Macon, 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 at the beginning of each meeting. 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 October 12, 2023 meeting, the October 26, 2023 special meeting, the November 7, 2023 joint meeting, and the November 9, 2023 special meeting be approved as presented.”

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

Voting NO:

The motion carried.

At the invitation of the Chairperson, Mrs. Macon stated that the minutes of the November 6, 2023 joint meeting should be corrected to reflect a revision in the responsibilities section of the Commission’s agreement with Cable Commission Consulting, LLC. In response to a question from the Executive Director regarding the precise wording of that revision, Mrs. Macon suggested that the minutes be approved as presented and revised at a later date if necessary.

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

“That the Minutes of the November 6, 2023 joint meeting be approved as presented.”

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

Voting NO:

The motion carried.

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

The report for January through November 2023 was summarized by the Executive Director. He stated that one piece of information regarding third quarter cable operator payments was unavailable and therefore that report would be provided to the Commission for its January 11, 2024 meeting.

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

“That the Financial Reports be accepted.”

Voting YES: Boykins, Dziuba, Gersin, Kowalsky, 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 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. Gersin, support from Mr. Kowalsky:

“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, and consider committee recommendations under New Business later in this meeting.”

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

Voting NO:

The motion carried.

## **8. Executive Director's Report**

### Civic Center TV/Lakes FM

Commissioner were provided a written report of programming cablecast on Civic Center TV in October and November.

### Cable Operators

Commissioners were provided copies of two communications from Comcast.

### Election of Officers

The Executive Director stated that, pursuant to the Commission's bylaws, the election of officers for 2024 will be held at the beginning of the January 11 meeting and that commissioners will be asked to communicate in advance of that meeting their interest in serving as an officer.

### Cable Industry News

The cable industry has identified a group of subscribers, the "quiet quitters", who have not cut the cord but are viewing less pay TV. The downside for the industry is that these customers may decide to disconnect their service at some point, and fewer viewers means lower advertising revenue. Pay TV constitutes 46 percent of all television viewing, 77 percent of the sports audience, and 85 percent of the news audience.

In September, streaming was down 5 percent and broadcast television up 13 percent, mostly the effect of football coverage. Consumer spending on streaming was up 17 percent from the third quarter of 2022 to the third quarter of 2023.

ESPN, which has been identified as the most valued cable channel among subscribers will "go to streaming" at some point, according to Disney president Robert Iger. He added that the service will also remain on cable.

Subscribers are less likely to cancel multiple-channel streaming services, like You Tube TV, Hulu Live, and Sling TV, which offer dozens of channels in one service, than pay TV. The likelihood of cable cancellation is 21 percent, while streaming is 12 percent.

### Communication

No communication was received

Commission Assistance to Residents

A resident of a West Bloomfield condominium complex contacted the Commission regarding a damaged pedestal and exposed wiring. Comcast was notified and rectified the situation.

The Commission responds to periodic calls from subscribers regarding billing issues by asking Comcast to contact the resident or by recommending a visit to the Xfinity store on Telegraph in Bloomfield Township. Both avenues have yielded positive results.

A resident contacted the West Bloomfield Township Supervisor's office to express dissatisfaction with cell service in his area of the Township. He was informed that neither the local community nor the Cable Commission have any control over cell service.

Preview

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

Mrs. Macon mentioned the concept of the digital forward consumer who is technologically adept and conducts most daily business digitally.

**9. Unfinished Business**

No items of Unfinished Business were presented.

**10. New Business**

Recommendation of the Commission Operations and Strategic Planning Committee –  
Executive Director Independent Contractor Agreement

Committee Recommendation:

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission approve its 2024 Executive Director Independent Contractor Agreement with Cable Commission Consulting, LLC.”

Mrs. Macon stated that the recommendation does not reflect the discussion at the November 6 committee meeting and that the committee should revisit the issue and reformulate its recommendation at its December 4 meeting.

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

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission extend the current Executive Director Independent Contractor Agreement with Cable Commission Consulting, LLC to January 11, 2024.”

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

Voting NO:

The motion carried.

Recommendation of the Community Programming Committee – Cable Television Local Government Programming Services Independent Contractor Agreement

Motion by Mrs. Dziuba:

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission approve its 2024 Cable Television Local Government Programming Services Independent Contractor Agreement with Michigan Digital.”

The Chairperson noted that as a committee recommendation, the motion to approve does not require support.

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

Voting NO:

The motion carried.

## **11. Commissioner Comments**

Ms. Levine noted the Chamber of Commerce charity holiday party on December 13 at Aurora Italiana in West Bloomfield.

Mrs. Macon reported that the Greater West Bloomfield Community Coalition has been named the outstanding coalition of the year by its peers in Oakland County and added that Narcan distribution boxes have been placed at several locations in the community. She also noted the “Bridging to Belonging” program at the library on December 7.

The Chairperson thanked the Commission and the West Bloomfield Township Board for support of the Commission’s 2024 budget.

## **12. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned by the Chairperson at 7:39PM.

The next meeting of the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission is **THURSDAY, JANUARY 11, 2024, at 7:00PM at WEST BLOOMFIELD TOWN HALL, 4550 Walnut Lake Road, West Bloomfield, Michigan.**