



GREATER WEST BLOOMFIELD CABLE COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

KEEGO HARBOR • ORCHARD LAKE • SYLVAN LAKE • WEST BLOOMFIELD

MINUTES

February 8, 2024

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 Keego Harbor:

Joel Ross

Representing Orchard Lake:

Jackie Beach

Anne Dziuba

Representing Sylvan Lake:

Pat Riney

Phil Ross

Representing West Bloomfield:

Jennifer Boykins

Stuart Dorf

Harvey Gersin

Suzanne Levine

Deborah Macon

Members Absent

Representing West Bloomfield:

Mark Kowalsky

Others in Attendance

Dave Scott (General Manager, Civic Center TV, Lakes FM), David Albery (Executive Director, GWBCCC)

The Executive Director stated that Mr. Kowalsky had communicated his inability to attend the meeting.

3. Approval of Agenda

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

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission approve the agenda as provided for the February 8, 2024 meeting.”

Voting YES: Beach, Boykins, Dorf, Dziuba, Gersin, Levine, Macon, Riney, Joel Ross, Phil Ross

Voting NO:

The motion was approved.

4. Public Comment

The Chairperson noted no members of the public in attendance and invited anyone with concerns to click the Comment tab at GWBCABLE.ORG.

5. Approval of Minutes

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

“That the Minutes of the January 11, 2024 meeting and the February 6, 2024 joint meeting be approved as presented.”

Voting YES: Beach, Boykins, Dorf, Dziuba, Gersin, Levine, Macon, Riney, Joel Ross, Phil Ross

Voting NO:

The motion was approved.

6. Acceptance of Financial Reports

The report for January 2024 and the final report for 2023 were summarized by the Executive Director.

In response to a question from Mrs. Macon, the Executive Director stated that individual communities expended cable funds for meeting coverage in 2023 and have also expended those funds for meeting coverage infrastructure in past years.

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

“That the Financial Reports be accepted.”

Voting YES: Beach, Boykins, Dorf, Dziuba, Gersin, Levine, Macon, Riney, Joel Ross, Phil Ross

Voting NO:

The motion was approved.

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 Community Programming Committee

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

Phil Ross noted that with two commissioners with the same last name, first names should be used to differentiate.

Strategic Plan Implementation 2024

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

Motion by Mrs. Beach, support from Mr. Riney:

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission accept the report of the Community Programming Committee as well as the strategic plan implementation update.”

Voting YES: Beach, Boykins, Dorf, Dziuba, Gersin, Levine, Macon, Riney, Joel Ross, Phil Ross
Voting NO:

The motion was approved.

8. Executive Director's Report

Civic Center TV/Lakes FM

Commissioners were provided a report of programming cablecast on Civic Center TV in January.

Mr. Scott addressed the Commission regarding the operation of CCT and Lakes FM, focusing on You Tube, Facebook, and CIVICCENTERTV.COM metrics, highlights of The Splash Live and other programming, the on-line program guide, and Civic Center TV staff.

Cable Operators

No communication was received.

GWBCCC Directory

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

Report to the Four Communities

Members were provided copies of the report provided to Keego Harbor, Orchard Lake, Sylvan Lake, and West Bloomfield.

Cable Industry News

Comcast is no longer the largest cable company in the U.S. Charter, which has experienced cord-cutting at a slower pace, had six thousand more subscribers at the end of 2023.

Charter is moving toward totally domestic call centers, counter to the trend in the cable industry over the past 30 years.

The new Democratic majority on the FCC is focusing on telecommunications mixed use, delivering cable television and internet via the same infrastructure, and reconsidering local authority over the rights-of-way used by that infrastructure. The goal is a level playing field for mixed-use providers and broadband-only providers. The Commission's chairperson, who is leading this initiative, was a dissenter when the Commission issued its 2019 franchise fee ruling, stating that it "cut local communities out of the infrastructure picture".

According to the Television Bureau of Advertising, broadcast and cable television viewing constitute 81 percent of viewing, amounting to over 5 hours a day per household, and local television broadcast news is still the most trusted and popular news source.

Communication

No communication was received.

Commission Assistance to Residents

The end of each winter brings quality of service concerns to the Commission's attention. The usual reason is the residential drop and a technician is required to effect repair. The Commission will also most likely receive complaints regarding unburied cable over the next few weeks.

The Commission assisted a subscriber whose monthly bill did not match a rate agreed upon by Comcast, and the company was able to resolve the issue.

A member of the Cable Commission had an incorrect recurring monthly charge which Comcast had promised would be removed. The Commission asked for an intervention, and the problem

was resolved.

Preview

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

Mrs. Macon asked for information regarding an internet outage in her neighborhood during the middle of the day on February 7.

In response to a question from Mrs. Dziuba, the Executive Director stated that Comcast storm ready internet service involves a battery powered modem and cell service. Phil Ross added that Comcast has limited battery back-up to keep its system running when electrical service is interrupted.

Mrs. Dziuba stated that she has received helpful customer service at the Xfinity Store on Telegraph in Bloomfield Township.

9. Unfinished Business

No items of Unfinished Business were presented.

10. New Business

No items of New Business were presented.

11. Commissioner Comments

Phil Ross stated that he was the commissioner with the billing problem and that it has hopefully been resolved.

Mrs. Macon noted the Black Expo at Orchard Mall on February 10 and the West Bloomfield Schools operating millage renewal on the February 27 ballot. She also noted a Fire Department event on March 15 at 3:00PM in relation to information about and assistance with mental health issues.

She stated that the Commission needs additional time on task to work on major issues and that the Finance Committee should meet more often than quarterly.

She asked how to request that programs from other communities be imported and cablecast on Civic Center TV.

The Chairperson expressed her hope that all commissioners are available to attend the special Commission meeting on March 7.

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by the Chairperson at 7:47PM.

The next meeting of the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission is **THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 2024, at 7:00PM** at **WEST BLOOMFIELD TOWN HALL**, 4550 Walnut Lake Road, West Bloomfield, Michigan.