



GREATER WEST BLOOMFIELD
CABLE COMMUNICATIONS
COMMISSION

KEEGO HARBOR • ORCHARD LAKE • SYLVAN LAKE • WEST BLOOMFIELD
MINUTES

May 6, 2024 (JOINT MEETING)

The Commission and its Commission Operations and Strategic Planning Committee met jointly at 6:30PM on May 6 at Green Media Center. In attendance were Mark Kowalsky, the chairperson, Ronnie Dahl, Anne Dziuba, Deborah Macon, and Pat Riney. Also in attendance were Commissioner Harvey Gersin, Commissioner Joel Ross, Civic Center TV/Lakes FM General Manager Dave Scott, and Commission Executive Director Dave Albery. Not in attendance were Commissioners Boykins, Dorf, Levine, and Phil Ross.

Mr. Kowalsky invited members to note high priority agenda items for this meeting and added his preference that the committee start by discussing the Michigan Open Meetings Act.

Mr. Albery stated that this discussion was placed on the agenda by Mr. Kowalsky at the request of Mrs. Dziuba. He added that at its April 24 special meeting, the Commission voted to create three working groups dealing with the creation of a 501(c)(3) entity, a Request for Proposals for Programming Services, and Civic Center TV programming, with the intention that each of the meetings of these groups would be posted as special Commission meetings. Under that structure, the groups could not meet if a quorum of the Commission was not present. Commission Chairperson Jennifer Taylor is recommending that the Commission, at its May 9 meeting, change the working groups to select committees, whose size and composition are not dictated by the Commission's bylaws. The meetings of those select committees would be open to all commissioners and would proceed if a quorum of the committee is present.

Mrs. Dziuba stated that Roberts Rules of Order, under which the Commission operates pursuant to its bylaws, prohibits the creation of select committees whose responsibilities are those of a standing committee, and Mrs. Macon stated that the Roberts Rules allow a body to rank one provision of its bylaws (the power to create select committees) above another (adherence to Roberts Rules). Mr. Kowalsky stated that while he wants the Commission to follow the rules, he also wants the Commission to be able to move quickly and added that he favors Commission consideration of the Chairperson's recommendation on May 9, with legal and parliamentary review to follow. The committee discussed the difference between the Commission's authority to create the select committees and the advisability of doing so.

Mr. Kowalsky provided a report regarding a meeting he and Ms. Boykins held in mid-April with Sonja James, West Bloomfield School District Executive Director of Educational Equity and Inclusion. Discussion at that meeting focused on the district's DEI collaborations with WB Parks and the West Bloomfield Township Public Library, and the Commission's possible role in those collaborations. Mr. Kowalsky asked that DEI remain on the committee agenda for the next meeting, when Ms. Boykins will be present and able to provide her report regarding the meeting with Ms. James.

In response to a question from Joel Ross, Mr. Kowalsky stated that the Commission's DEI focus has been on recognizing the impact of implicit bias and how it affects relationships and programming provided by the Commission.

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Mr. Albery stated that the Finance Committee has asked this committee to review the draft 2025 Commission budget and provide comments and suggestions. Discussion of the budget focused on the advisability of having a conversation with the four communities regarding the reasons for the formation of the Commission/Cable Advisory Board in 1984, what current initiatives the Commission should implement on behalf of the communities, and how community ordinances address cable and communication.

Mr. Scott stated that the Commission provides two distinct services for the communities, the dissemination of information from elected officials to constituents and positive marketing content, both for residents and non-residents. Mrs. Macon stated that the Commission can also provide invaluable assistance in the areas of emergency preparedness and communication.

Mr. Kowalsky asked that the committee's comments be provided to the Finance Committee.

Ms. Dahl stated that the Commission and its committees spend too much time on rules and regulations, that the world is much different than it was in 1984, and that change is needed to keep the organization viable. She added that the recent visit to Orion Neighborhood Television was very instructive and stated that information provided to the four communities needs to be strategic, not just a summary of recent programming highlights.

In response to a question from Joel Ross regarding the reason the original 1984 agreement is still in place, Mr. Scott and Mr. Albery responded that the co-operation among the four communities is advantageous to the three cities and that no community has asked to revisit the agreement.