



GREATER WEST BLOOMFIELD
CABLE COMMUNICATIONS
COMMISSION

KEEGO HARBOR • ORCHARD LAKE • SYLVAN LAKE • WEST BLOOMFIELD

MINUTES

January 12, 2017

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the Chairperson, Harvey Gersin, at 7:31PM at Green Media Center.

2. Roll Call

Members Present:

Representing Keego Harbor: John Horger
Representing Orchard Lake: Anne Dziuba, Dan Krause
Representing Sylvan Lake: Matthew Benavides, Jim Endres
Representing West Bloomfield: Harvey Gersin, Mark Kowalsky, Suzanne Levine,
Jonathan Warshay

Members Absent:

Representing Keego Harbor: Michael Grogan
Representing West Bloomfield: Deborah Macon, Gerald Walters

Others in Attendance:

Jonathan Jackson (Civic Center TV), Dave Scott (General Manager, Civic Center TV), David Albery (Executive Director, GWBCCC)

The Executive Director stated that Mr. Walters, Mrs. Macon, and Mr. Grogan had communicated their inability to attend the meeting. He added that material in addition to that delivered earlier in the week, including a revised agenda, had been provided for commissioners at the dais.

At the invitation of the Chairperson, Mr. Warshay, newly elected West Bloomfield Township trustee and newly appointed liaison to the Cable Commission, introduced himself to the Commission, and commissioners introduced themselves to him.

3. Election of Officers

The Chairperson stated that Commission bylaws dictate the election of officers at the first meeting each year and that one officer be elected from each of the four communities. He added that a summary of each commissioners' availability or desire to be elected to office had been provided and suggested a slate for election.

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

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission elect Harvey Gersin of West Bloomfield as Chairperson, Matthew Benavides of Sylvan Lake of Vice-Chairperson, Anne Dziuba of Orchard Lake as Secretary, and Michael Grogan of Keego Harbor as Treasurer.”

Voting YES: Benavides, Dziuba, Endres, Gersin, Horger, Kowalsky, Krause, Levine, Warshay

Voting NO:

The motion carried.

On behalf of the other officers, the Chairperson thanked commissioners for their confidence and support and added that he looks forward to another great year.

4. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Mr. Warshay, support from Mr. Krause:

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission approve the agenda as revised for the January 12, 2017 meeting.”

Voting YES: Benavides, Dziuba, Endres, Gersin, Horger, Kowalsky, Krause, Levine, Warshay

Voting NO:

The motion carried.

5. Public Forum

The Chairperson stated that the forum provides an opportunity for residents to address the Commission regarding cable-related issues at the beginning and the end of each meeting. Those unable to attend should contact the Commission at gwbcable.org.

No member of the public rose to address the Commission.

6. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Mr. Endres, support from Mrs. Dziuba:

"That the Minutes of the December 1, 2016 meeting be approved as presented."

Voting YES: Benavides, Dziuba, Endres, Gersin, Horger, Kowalsky, Krause, Levine

Voting NO:

Abstaining: Warshay

The motion carried.

7. Acceptance of Financial Report

In the absence of Mr. Grogan, the Commission's Treasurer, the report was presented by the Executive Director, who pointed out that although the report covers all of 2016, it is not the final report for the year due to several 2016 expenditures which are being processed in January. He projected the presentation of the final 2016 report for the February 9, 2017 Commission meeting.

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

"That the Financial Report be accepted."

Voting YES: Benavides, Dziuba, Endres, Gersin, Horger, Kowalsky, Krause, Levine, Warshay

Voting NO:

The motion carried.

8. Commission 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 chairperson. She emphasized that all commissioners would soon be receiving a request to view and evaluate a Civic Center TV program segment using a Survey Monkey on-line instrument. The committee will then review those evaluations at its next meeting on February 7. The Chairperson added that there are no right or wrong answers and that the committee is looking for all viewpoints.

Report of the Commission Operations and Strategic Planning Committee

Commissioners were provided a written report which was summarized by Mr. Kowalsky, the chairperson.

Committee Recommendation:

"That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission adopt the 'Resolution in Support of Sunshine Week' as presented."

Motion by Ms. Levin, support from Mr. Endres:

"That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission accept the reports of the Commission Operations and Strategic Planning and Community Programming committees and consider committee recommendations under New Business later in this meeting."

Voting YES: Benavides, Dziuba, Endres, Gersin, Horger, Kowalsky, Krause, Levine, Warshay
Voting NO:

The motion carried.

9. Executive Director's Report

Civic Center TV

Jonathan Jackson, host of the Civic Center TV program “The Splash”, addressed the Commission regarding the program, focusing on its community outreach impact, including the “Sidewalk Talk” segment, with a new host replacing George Moore. He emphasized the program’s social media profile and plans for more presence at live events in the community, such as United We Walk in January and the Orchard Lake Fine Art Show in July.

Commissioners were provided a report of Civic Center TV programming for all of 2016 and for January of 2017.

Cable Operators

Commissioners were provided copies of three communications from Comcast regarding channel line-up changes.

The Executive Director also relayed a communication from Comcast in response to a question raised by Mrs. Dziuba at the Commission’s December 1 meeting regarding a change in the cost of additional outlets in subscribers’ homes. The company stated that the one-time cost of activation of an additional outlet, formerly 30 dollars, is now zero, and that the cost of providing service to additional outlets has not changed.

GWBCCC Directory

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

4th Quarter and Annual Report to the Four Communities

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

Periodical Review

A PwC survey of 12 hundred pay TV (cable, telco, satellite) subscribers indicates that cord cutting is slowing down. In 2014, 91 percent of subscribers stated that they expected to be

subscribers a year later, in 2015, 70 percent, and in 2016, 84 percent. 42 percent of subscribers are paying more than they were a year ago, and 51 percent of those who cut back their subscription say they are paying more now. The survey concludes that streaming services will continue to grow as a supplement to pay TV.

Nielsen reports that the number of pay TV households in the United States is dropping. A Nielsen survey of 1,500 self-identified sports fans, commissioned by Fox Sports, indicates that sports channels are the fifth most essential service for pay TV subscribers and the most important cable channel. In the Detroit market, Fox Sports Detroit is the second most essential service.

Cable price increases for 2017 for standard video services are at about 5%, with broadcast and regional sports fees increasing 40 and 66 percent respectively for Comcast subscribers.

Communication

No communications were received

Preview

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

Mr. Kowalsky suggested that the communities be asked to pass along notices from AT&T which are not provided to the Commission. He added he read some information regarding the formation of a new regional sports channel by the Tigers, the Red Wings, and the Pistons. The Executive Director stated that the challenge for such a new service would be securing carriage on cable systems.

10. Unfinished Business

No items of Unfinished Business were presented.

11. New Business

Recommendation of the Commission Operations and Strategic Planning Committee – Sunshine Week 2017

The Chairperson presented the recommendation:

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission adopt the ‘Resolution in Support of Sunshine Week’ as presented.”

At the invitation of the Chairperson, the Executive Director presented the resolution.

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

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission adopt the ‘Resolution in Support of Sunshine Week’ as presented.”

Voting YES: Benavides, Dziuba, Endres, Gersin, Horger, Kowalsky, Krause, Levine, Warshay

Voting NO:

The motion carried.

Committee Appointment

Mr. Warshay noted that there was a vacancy on the Finance Committee, a position held by his predecessor as Township Board liaison.

Motion by Mr. Warshay, support from Mr. Kowalsky:

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission appoint Jonathan Warshay of West Bloomfield to the Finance Committee.”

Voting YES: Benavides, Dziuba, Endres, Gersin, Horger, Kowalsky, Krause, Levine, Warshay

Voting NO:

The motion carried.

12. Public Forum

The Chairperson stated that the forum provides an opportunity for residents to address the Commission regarding cable-related issues at the beginning and the end of each meeting.

No member of the public rose to address the Commission.

Mr. Krause stated that there is progress in the establishment of the West Bloomfield Amateur Radio Club and that updates will be provided in the future.

Mr. Horger stated he is resigning as one of Keego Harbor’s representatives to the Commission due to a conflict of interest created by his ownership of the company that provides IT support for Green Media Center. The Chairperson thanked him for his twelve years of service.

Ms. Levine stated that nominations are now being accepted for the Chamber of Commerce Awards to be presented at the annual awards dinner on May 9.

Mr. Endres reminded commissioners of United We Walk on Sunday, January 15, with the gathering at West Bloomfield High School at 2:30PM and the walk and program to follow.

13. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by the Chairperson at 8:17PM.

The next meeting of the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission is **THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2017**, at **7:30PM** at **WEST BLOOMFIELD TOWN HALL**, 4550 Walnut Lake Road, West Bloomfield, Michigan.