



GREATER WEST BLOOMFIELD
CABLE COMMUNICATIONS
COMMISSION

KEEGO HARBOR • ORCHARD LAKE • SYLVAN LAKE • WEST BLOOMFIELD

MINUTES

June 8, 2017

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the Chairperson, Harvey Gersin, at 7:30PM at West Bloomfield Town Hall.

2. Roll Call

Members Present:

Representing Keego Harbor: Michael Grogan
Representing Orchard Lake: Anne Dziuba, Dan Krause
Representing Sylvan Lake: Matthew Benavides
Representing West Bloomfield: Harvey Gersin, Suzanne Levine, Deborah Macon,
Gerald Walters, Jonathan Warshay

Members Absent:

Representing Keego Harbor: Eric Gubka
Representing Sylvan Lake: Jim Endres
Representing West Bloomfield: Mark Kowalsky

Others in Attendance:

Nada Jamoua, David Albery (Executive Director, GWBCCC)

The Executive Director stated that Mr. Endres and Mr. Kowalsky had communicated their inability to attend the meeting. He added that material in addition to that delivered earlier in the week had been provided for commissioners at the dais.

The Chairperson stated that this meeting would be the last for Mr. Walters after serving as a West Bloomfield representative to the Commission for a decade and thanked him for his service and dedication. Mr. Walters thanked the other commissioners, stated that he enjoyed his time serving with them, and added that he is sure they will work to make Civic Center TV and the Commission bigger and better in the future.

Mrs. Macon stated that has been a pleasure to work with Mr. Walters, who has brought the fruits of his leadership in his condominium association to his role as commissioner.

The Chairperson introduced Nada Jamoua, who will be replacing Mr. Walters as a West Bloomfield representative. She stated that she is glad to be able to meet other commissioners and outlined her professional, family, and community service background. The Chairperson added that official introductions will occur at the Commission's July meeting.

3. Approval of Agenda

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

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission approve the agenda as provided for the June 8, 2017 meeting.”

Voting YES: Benavides, Dziuba, Gersin, Grogan, Krause, Levine, Macon, Walters, Warshay

Voting NO:

The motion carried.

4. 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.

5. Approval of Minutes

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

“That the Minutes of the May 11, 2017 meeting be approved as presented.”

Voting YES: Benavides, Dziuba, Gersin, Grogan, Krause, Levine, Macon, Walters, Warshay

Voting NO:

The motion carried.

6. Acceptance of Financial Report

The report for January through May 2017 was summarized by Mr. Grogan, the Commission’s Treasurer. The Executive Director summarized the report of first quarter 2017 payments from cable operators and added that the Finance Committee is closely monitoring the payments and will meet in late August to review second quarter payments before recommending that the Commission approve its 2018 budget.

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

“That the Financial Reports be accepted.”

Voting YES: Benavides, Dziuba, Gersin, Grogan, Krause, Levine, Macon, Walters, Warshay

Voting NO:

The motion carried.

7. Commission Reports

The Chairperson stated that this portion of the agenda provides an opportunity for committees to report to the Commission.

Report of the Finance Committee

Commissioners were provided a written report which was summarized by Mr. Grogan, the committee chairperson. Mr. Warshay stated that in his experience as an AT&T subscriber, the company is pushing U-verse subscribers to move to satellite service and noting that if they do, they will not be paying franchise fees or PEG support.

Report of the Commission Operations and Strategic Planning Committee

Commissioners were provided a written report which was summarized by the Executive Director.

Committee Recommendation:

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission amend its bylaws, specifically Article IV, and its protocols, specifically Section C, as recommended by the Commission Operations and Strategic Planning Committee.”

Report of the Community Programming Committee

Commissioners were provided a written report which was summarized by Mrs. Dziuba, the committee chairperson. The Executive Director noted that the Commission, which has in the past sometimes canceled its August meeting, will meet on Thursday, August 10, at 6:15PM, the primary agenda item being the community conversation which is part of the Commission's community engagement project.

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

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission accept the reports of the Finance, Commission Operations and Strategic Planning, and Community Programming committees and consider a committee recommendation under New Business later in this meeting.”

Voting YES: Benavides, Dziuba, Gersin, Grogan, Krause, Levine, Macon, Walters, Warshay
Voting NO:

The motion carried.

8. Executive Director's Report

Civic Center TV

Commissioners were provided a report of programming produced for Civic Center TV in 2017. The Executive Director noted the level of production activity and commended CCT staff for the large number of programs produced in May.

Cable Operators

Commissioners were provided copies of a communication from Comcast.

Periodical Review

52% of those nationwide who have dropped cable service have done so in the past two years. Comcast, however, is adding video subscribers, mostly to the company's higher-priced X1 platform.

The Leichtman Research Group reports that the major pay TV providers lost 410 thousand subscribers in the first quarter of 2017, compared to a gain of 10 thousand a year earlier. The company identifies a "small but accelerating cord-cutting trend" and adds that other factors contribute to the loss, including providers' decreased pursuit of low value customers.

Nielsen reports that, despite the availability of television programming on all devices, 92 percent of all television viewing is on a TV screen.

Many residents who contact the Cable Commission ask why cable service is not classified by the state of Michigan as a utility, like land-line telephone service, electricity, or natural gas. A survey commissioned by the cable industry and conducted by Morning Consult shows that a majority of respondents nationwide do not favor such a classification, which would, in their opinion, not be appropriate for the growth and development of dynamic broadband networks. Over three quarters of respondents favor either very light regulation of cable or no regulation at all.

Communication

No communications were received.

Preview

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

Mr. Warshay mentioned that Jonathan Jackson is leaving Civic Center TV for a job as a reporter

at the CBS affiliate in Saginaw/Bay City. The Executive Director reminded members of the invitation forwarded to them for Jonathan's going-away party on June 12 and added that Dani Mann is also leaving and that commissioners will be invited to a celebration of her role in the success of CCT over the past four years.

9. Unfinished Business

No items of Unfinished Business were presented.

10. New Business

Recommendation of the Commission Operations and Strategic Planning Committee – Amendments to the GWBCCC Bylaws and Protocols

The Chairperson presented the recommendation.

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission amend its bylaws, specifically Article IV, and its protocols, specifically Section C, as recommended by the Commission Operations and Strategic Planning Committee.”

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

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission amend its bylaws, specifically Article IV, and its protocols, specifically Section C, as recommended by the Commission Operations and Strategic Planning Committee.”

Voting YES: Benavides, Dziuba, Gersin, Grogan, Krause, Levine, Macon, Walters, Warshay

Voting NO:

The motion carried.

11. 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 reported that the Governor of Michigan has declared that June 19 - 25 is Amateur Radio Week in the state.

Ms. Levine reminded commissioners of the Health and Wellness Fair to be held at West Bloomfield Town Hall on June 28.

Mrs. Macon commended all involved in the Michigan Week Breakfast on May 19 and especially thanked Dave Scott, Motown Digital, and Civic Center TV for their efforts. The Chairperson mentioned the student media achievement award the Commission presented to two West Bloomfield High School students at the breakfast.

Mrs. Macon also mentioned that the Commission's community engagement project was presented to those in attendance at the June meeting of the Clergy Association and Community Forum.

Mr. Warshay expressed gratitude to Jonathan Jackson for his work at Civic Center TV.

The Chairperson reminded Mr. Walters that he is always welcome at Commission meetings.

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by the Chairperson at 8:11PM.

The next meeting of the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission is **THURSDAY, JULY 13, 2017, at 7:30PM** at **WEST BLOOMFIELD TOWN HALL**, 4550 Walnut Lake Road, West Bloomfield, Michigan.