



GREATER WEST BLOOMFIELD
CABLE COMMUNICATIONS
COMMISSION

KEEGO HARBOR • ORCHARD LAKE • SYLVAN LAKE • WEST BLOOMFIELD

MINUTES

August 10, 2017

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the Chairperson, Harvey Gersin, at 6:20PM 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 (arrived at 6:33PM)
Representing West Bloomfield: Harvey Gersin, Nada Jamoua,
Mark Kowalsky (arrived at 6:23PM)
Suzanne Levine, Jonathan Warshay

Members Absent:

Representing Keego Harbor: Eric Gubka
Representing Sylvan Lake: Jim Endres
Representing West Bloomfield: Deborah Macon

Others in Attendance:

David Barash, Miriam DuMahaut, Gregory Flynn, Gina Gregory, Nicole Harris, Debbie Binder, John O'Leary, Michael Patton, Helen Jane Peters, DuAnne Sonnevile, Ted Wade, Dave Scott (General Manager, Civic Center TV), David Albery (Executive Director, GWBCCC)

The Executive Director stated that Mr. Endres and Mrs. Macon had communicated their inability to attend the meeting.

3. Approval of Agenda

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

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission approve the agenda as provided for the August 10, 2017 meeting.”

Voting YES: Dziuba, Gersin, Grogan, Jamoua, Krause, Levine, Warshay

Voting NO:

The motion carried.

Mr. Kowalsky arrived at 6:23PM.

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.

Jim Endres of Sylvan Lake stated that he would normally be sitting with his fellow commissioners at the dais but that he has recently experienced some medical challenges. He welcomed the newest commissioner, Ms. Jamoua, and stated that his colleagues are the most dedicated, nicest group of people she will ever work with and that they really care. He thanked everyone for their well wishes.

John O'Leary of West Bloomfield stated that when he receives West Bloomfield Township bills or statements, he is accustomed to seeing a comparison of those charges with neighboring communities. He added that he cannot receive the government access television channel, Civic Center TV, because there is only one source, Comcast, and he does not deal with the company. He asked if other communities are in the same situation as West Bloomfield, with one cable provider.

The Executive Director stated that West Bloomfield has two providers, Comcast and AT&T, and that other southeast Michigan communities have the same two options and that some have a third provider, Wide Open West.

Mr. O'Leary stated that he switched to AT&T's DirecTV with the understanding that the service would include Civic Center TV, which it does not and that AT&T is constantly making offers for new service which he as an existing subscriber cannot access. He asked whether he is being subjected to false advertising or an adverse action by his community.

The Executive Director stated that under the provisions of Michigan Public Act 480, cable operators can conduct their business as they wish. Any residents who are unhappy with how business is conducted can cancel their subscription. If they believe a company has engaged in fraud, that issue can be directed to the Consumer Protection Division of the Attorney General's office in Lansing.

Mr. Kowalsky stated that the communities have not limited the number of cable providers, that any company is welcome, and that Civic Center TV programming is available on-line.

Mr. Krause stated that AT&T U-verse service, which does include Civic Center TV, is available in West Bloomfield.

Mr. Scott stated that wireless bandwidth in the community is excellent and that all CCT content can be accessed in that way. In response to a question from Mr. O'Leary, Mr. Scott stated that they could discuss after the meeting how to access CCT using internet service and a smart TV.

Mr. Krause added that he has learned that Wide Open West is looking at expansion into Greater West Bloomfield.

Mr. Warshay stated that he had provided Mr. O'Leary the telephone number for the Consumer Protection Division in Lansing.

Mr. Benavides arrived at 6:33PM.

5. Approval of Minutes

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

“That the Minutes of the July 13, 2017 meeting be approved as presented.”

Voting YES: Benavides, Dziuba, Gersin, Grogan, Jamoua, Kowalsky, Krause, Levine, Warshay
Voting NO:

The motion carried.

The Chairperson stated that this meeting is in a different format than usual and that the Finance, Commission, and Executive Director reports are postponed until the next Commission meeting on September 7.

He recessed the meeting at 6:34PM to prepare for the upcoming community conversation.

The Chairperson called the meeting back to order at 6:45PM.

6. New Business

Community Conversation

The Chairperson introduced Joscelyn Davis of Jade Strategies, the facilitator for the Commission's community engagement project which is part its strategic planning initiative begun in 2015. The project consists of focus groups which were held in late July and early August, this evening's community conversation, and an on-line survey.

Ms. Davis addressed those in attendance regarding the agenda for the conversation and the Commission's strategic planning initiative.

She introduced Commission Chairperson Harvey Gersin, Community Programming Committee chairperson Anne Dziuba, and Executive Director Dave Alberty and asked them to speak regarding the role of the Commission, Civic Center TV programming, how the Commission and CCT interact with residents, and upcoming Commission initiatives.

Mrs. Dziuba thanked the sponsors who have supported the Commission's community engagement project.

In response to an invitation from Ms. Davis for questions from the audience, Ted Wade of Orchard Lake asked how the public can access Civic Center TV programming on-line. He also

pointed out that sometimes meetings of the Tri-City Fire Board are not on CCT but rather on WBTW, West Bloomfield School District television.

The Executive Director stated that if meetings occur simultaneously, one will be moved to the second channel and that all meetings are archived at civiccentertv.com.

John O'Leary of West Bloomfield asked whether there is coordinated strategic planning among the Greater West Bloomfield communities, and Ms. Davis stated that this initiative is the Commission's and not related to any planning being done by the four communities, either individually or jointly. Mr. O'Leary stated that the communities should engage in more cooperative ventures, and Mr. Wade stated that Orchard Lake and Keego Harbor are undertaking master plan review. Further discussion focused on the focus groups the Commission conducted over the past two weeks.

Ms. Davis divided those in attendance into three groups and asked that each group select a recorder and a spokesman. She then introduced two segments from the Civic Center TV newsmagazine "The Splash", which all in attendance viewed, and asked the three groups to prioritize the importance of different types of CCT programming. Each group then reported its prioritized list.

Ms. Davis then introduced a panel of focus group participants, including West Bloomfield Fire Chief Gregory Flynn, Greater West Bloomfield Historical Society President Gina Gregory, and resident Nicole Harris, and asked them to address questions dealing with the importance of local media, use of that media, new innovative programming for CCT and WBLD, and their interest in serving on a Cable Commission committee of local residents.

Ms. Davis invited commissioners to pose questions to the panel.

Mr. Kowalsky asked how the Commission can reach more people in the community, and panelists cited social media as one possible avenue.

Mr. Gersin mentioned the possible involvement of residents as a community advisors to the Commission to assist in meeting community needs and interests.

Mr. Krause asked how amateur radio operators can assist with emergency information, and Chief Flynn stated that public safety is looking for as much communications redundancy as possible within the community. Mr. Scott added that the Commission thanks the Fire Department and West Bloomfield Township for use of the communications tower at Fire Station #1.

David Barash asked whether the Commission could involve high school students in the use of social media to publicize Civic Center TV and WBLD programming. He also addressed how CCT is identified on the Comcast program guide.

Debbie Binder mentioned successes West Bloomfield Township has had in using social media directed at those both inside and outside the four communities. Mr. Krause also mentioned the web site nextdoor.com.

Mr. Warshay suggested partnerships with all school districts in furthering the mission of the Commission.

Ms. Davis outlined the remaining steps in the community engagement project, including the on-line survey, which can be accessed through the Commission's web site gwbcable.org and the

report which she will submit to the Commission and which will be posted on the web site in early September.

She also introduced her two interns who assisted her during the community conversation and thanked all in attendance for their participation.

7. 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. Scott invited everyone to an informational meeting regarding the new community events calendar on August 16 at 10:30AM at West Bloomfield Town Hall. The event will also be cablecast live on Civic Center TV.

Mrs. Dziuba thanked the members of the Community Programming Committee for their efforts in making the community engagement process a success, and the Chairperson thanked Mrs. Dziuba for her efforts.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by the Chairperson at 8:10PM.

The next meeting of the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission is **THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2017, at 7:30PM at GREEN MEDIA CENTER, 4510 Walnut Lake Road, West Bloomfield, Michigan.**