



GREATER WEST BLOOMFIELD  
CABLE COMMUNICATIONS  
COMMISSION

KEEGO HARBOR • ORCHARD LAKE • SYLVAN LAKE • WEST BLOOMFIELD

## MINUTES

September 7, 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: Michael Grogan  
Representing Orchard Lake: Anne Dziuba, Dan Krause  
Representing Sylvan Lake: Matthew Benavides  
Representing West Bloomfield: Harvey Gersin, Nada Jamoua (arrived at 7:33PM),  
Mark Kowalsky, Deborah Macon, Jonathan Warshay

Members Absent:

Representing Sylvan Lake: Jim Endres  
Representing West Bloomfield: Suzanne Levine

Others in Attendance:

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

The Executive Director stated that Mr. Endres and Ms. Levine 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.

### 3. Approval of Agenda

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

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission approve the revised agenda as provided for the September 7, 2017 meeting.”

Voting YES: Benavides, Dziuba, Gersin, Grogan, Kowalsky, Krause, Macon, Warshay

Voting NO:

The motion carried.

Ms. Jamoua arrived at 7:33PM.

#### **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. Warshay, support from Mr. Krause:

“That the Minutes of the August 10, 2017 meeting be approved as presented.”

Voting YES: Benavides, Dziuba, Gersin, Grogan, Jamoua, Kowalsky, Krause, Macon, Warshay

Voting NO:

The motion carried.

#### **6. Acceptance of Financial Reports**

The report for January through August of 2017 was summarized by Mr. Grogan, the Commission’s Treasurer. The analysis of cable operator payments for the second quarter of 2017 was summarized by the Executive Director.

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

“That the Financial Reports be accepted.”

Voting YES: Benavides, Dziuba, Gersin, Grogan, Jamoua, Kowalsky, Krause, Macon, 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 Community Programming Committee

Commissioners were provided a written report which was summarized by Mrs. Dziuba, the committee chairperson. Discussion focused on the lack of diversity among participants in the four focus groups that met as part of the community engagement project.

Report of the Commission Operations and Strategic Planning Committee

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

Report of the Finance Committee

Commissioners were provided a written report which was summarized by Mr. Grogan, the committee chairperson. Discussion of the 2018 Cable Commission budget recommended by the committee focused on increases for computer and network maintenance and equipment, the format of the budget presentation document, and the decrease in the cost of telecommunications services for 2018. Mr. Kowalsky commended the expanded role of the Finance Committee over the past year.

Committee Recommendation:

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission adopt its 2018 budget as presented by the Finance Committee and recommend its approval by the four communities.”

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

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

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

The motion carried.

**8. Executive Director's Report**

Civic Center TV

Mr. Scott addressed the Commission regarding awards for Civic Center TV programming to be presented at the Philo Festival of the Arts on October 20 in Lake Orion, Civic Center TV staff changes, CCT web site metrics, the involvement of local communities and institutions and organizations in the new community events calendar, WBLD programming, and CCT staff involvement in local community efforts.

Cable Operators

Commissioners were provided copies of communications from Comcast.

### GWBCCC Directory

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

### Sylvan Lake City Council Cablecasts

The Sylvan Lake City Council voted on August 9 to begin cablecasting its meetings on Civic Center TV in September. The Chairperson pointed out that Jim Endres should be commended for his efforts in that initiative.

### Periodical Review

Mrs. Macon and the Executive Director took part in a Comcast conference call on August 14 regarding its Internet Essentials program. The call focused on how many Americans are participating, what the service offers, how Comcast has moved the computer literacy component outside the company to community organizations such as Boys and Girls Clubs, the effect of the program on academics, pilot programs involving senior citizens, and how to increase participation through school district communications and dealing with peoples' concerns regarding internet predators and scams.

In the second quarter of 201, ending on June 30, AT&T lost 350 thousand subscribers nationally, 155 thousand satellite subscribers and 195 thousand who had U-verse. Comcast lost 34 thousand subscribers, but cable revenue and cash flow increased. Kagan reports that the second quarter shows the fastest decline in pay TV subscriptions on record, with a total of 975 thousand subscribers disconnecting across all platforms, cable, satellite, and telephone company video services.

Several reports provide a snapshot of the current pay TV landscape.

- 64 percent of homes in the United States subscribe to at least one streaming service, up from 51 percent two years ago
- Barclays predicts that 31 million subscribers nationwide will drop pay TV service over the next decade
- 50 percent of people who drop cable are being captured by streaming services

### Communication

No communication was received.

### Preview

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

next, including the dates on which the 2018 Commission budget will be considered by each of the four communities.

Mrs. Macon stated that United Way has made information available regarding economic distress for families in the four Greater West Bloomfield communities. She also suggested the use of the term “digital citizenship” to describe efforts to provide computer literacy to people of all ages. Discussion focused on publicizing the availability of Internet Essentials through the Commission, the communities, and local school districts.

## **9. Unfinished Business**

No items of Unfinished Business were presented.

## **10. New Business**

### Recommendation of the Finance Committee – 2018 GWBCCC Budget

The Chairperson presented the recommendation.

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission adopt its 2018 budget as presented by the Finance Committee and recommend its approval by the four communities.”

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

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission adopt its 2018 budget as presented by the Finance Committee and recommend its approval by the four communities.”

Voting YES: Benavides, Dziuba, Gersin, Grogan, Jamoua, Kowalsky, Krause, Macon, 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. Grogan reported his experience with Comcast X-1 service.

Mr. Warshay reported on the results of West Bloomfield’s litigation against Comcast regarding the Wide Area Network.

Mrs. Macon stated that she likes the arrangement for this meeting around a table in the Green Center studio. She added that September is National Disaster Preparedness Month and reminded

commissioners of the Fire Department Open House on October 8 and the Historical Society fund-raising dinner on October 16.

Mr. Scott added that Henry Ford Hospital West Bloomfield is hosting an emergency preparedness program on September 26.

## **12. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned by the Chairperson at 8:58PM.

The next meeting of the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission is **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2017, at 7:30PM at WEST BLOOMFIELD TOWN HALL, 4550 Walnut Lake Road, West Bloomfield, Michigan.**