

BIRMINGHAM AREA CABLE BOARD MEETING MINUTES – June 15, 2016

Present: Eick, Heldt, McLain, Bozell – Birmingham
 Burry, Maly, Schneider, Verdi-Hus – Village of Beverly Hills
 Ettenson – Village of Bingham Farms
 Stakhiv – Village of Franklin

Absent: McAlear - Birmingham

Also Present: White – Executive Director
 Currier – Attorney for Cable Board
 Pielack – Birmingham Museum Director
 Black – Bloomfield Community Television

McLain called the meeting to order at 7:45 AM in the Birmingham Public Schools' Education & Administration Center, Evergreen Room, 31301 Evergreen Road, Beverly Hills, MI.

APPROVE MINUTES OF CABLE BOARD MEETING HELD May 18, 2016

Ettenson confirmed that he had seconded the Motion to approve the minutes of April 20, 2016 as presented, as well as the Motion to approve the minutes of April 20, 2016, as amended.

Motion by Heldt, seconded by Ettenson to approve the minutes of the Regular Cable Board Meeting on May 18, 2016, as amended.

Motion passed.

PEG GRANT REQUEST – CITY OF BIRMINGHAM FOR COMPLETION OF THE OUTDOOR WIRELESS ACCESS AT THE BIRMINGHAM MUSEUM

Leslie Pielack, Museum Director, referred to her Memo dated June 15, 2016, and presented an addendum request from the City of Birmingham for a grant in an amount of \$3,482.29 to complete the project (Phase 1 approved Oct. 16, 2013; Phases 2 and 3 approved August 19, 2015; Phase 4 approved Oct. 21, 2015). This request is to connect the system correctly by relocating the wiring around the park's spring fed pond. It would provide for the desired public wireless access while protecting the natural and historical resources in the park. She provided the Board with background information and copies of Change Order JCO 1, which was issued 3/9/2016, effective 5/12/2016.

Motion by Heldt, seconded by Burry to approve a grant in an amount not to exceed \$3,482.29 to the City of Birmingham for the completion of the outdoor public access at the Birmingham Museum (formerly Birmingham Historical Museum & Park).

Roll Call Vote:
 Motion passed (10-0).

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

BIRMINGHAM AREA CABLE BOARD MEETING MINUTES – June 15, 2016

TREASURER’S REPORT

Treasurer Heldt passed out a copy of the complete package of May 31, 2016 Brokerage Account Statement from Multi-Bank Securities, Inc. He noted that \$200,000 had been moved out of either or both the Credit Union and the Beverly Hills accounts and a CD which matures in September was bought. This was done in anticipation of a major Administrative Grant at the first of the year and those funds are in excess of our on-going operational needs from a cash-flow standpoint. Of course, the amount of the distribution funds will depend on the year-end audit.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Cable Action Committee

Verdi-Hus stated that there was no meeting last month due to the Memorial Day holiday. There were no agenda items that needed immediate action. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 7, at 5:30 PM, upstairs in the Baldwin Library. The meeting is open to the public.

PEG Committee

McAlear, Chairman, was not present. However, McLain stated there would be a PEG meeting following the BACB meeting this morning.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

White referred to her report dated June 9, 2016. Since her last report she has received three (3) complaints and all three (3) are now resolved and closed. One was submitted by a Birmingham resident who, due to equipment not working, received a new box which also did not work. Comcast technical support was subsequently able to get the old DVR working. The subscriber was told his DVR service had been cancelled 9 months ago (without notification) when he had adjusted his rate. When asked for compensation, he was denied and notified that his rate would increase \$10/month because the DVR service had been restored. The Comcast Escalation Team has been attempting to contact him but as of late, to no avail. It was acknowledged that the resident would pursue this matter. The second complaint was a misidentification of the ownership of the box outside the Beverly Hills offices during its construction project. The box did, in fact, belong to WOW, who removed it. The third involved a loose Comcast wire reported by a resident. After being informed there would be no charge for the repair he was charged a \$50.00 service charge. The resident asked that the Escalation Team confirm that Comcast would refund the charge. This complaint is closed.

The account balances for the MBS, BBCU, and Beverly Hills accounts were provided to the Board. Since her last report, White has written one check on behalf of the BACB to Bloomfield Township in the amount of \$10,000.00 for BCTV filming four (4) May sports events.

Frank Maly, BACB member, forwarded to her an interesting Wall Street Journal article about whether consumers should “...Be Permitted to Provide Their Own Set-Top Cable and Satellite Boxes?” She has provided copies to the members at the meeting.

PROVIDER RELATED TOPICS

a. Comcast

There was no representative present and there were no new announcements.

BIRMINGHAM AREA CABLE BOARD MEETING MINUTES – June 15, 2016

McLain stated that while White was away she had responsibility for the “cable phone” and took some of the complaints that White had reported. She recommended that when calling a complaint consumers should write down the name of the person to whom they are speaking, time of the call, plus a caller ID. These details are for future references. She also noted that one provider could even send a subscriber a transcript of a conversation, if desired. Most importantly, she advised resident to read the monthly provider bills, taking note of any and all service changes and charges. When speaking with a Service Representative about making service arrangements, it is important that consumers know if there would be a charge. Remember to make notes for their records of all conversations.

b. AT&T/Uverse/Direct TV

There was no representative present.

c. WOW

There was no representative present.

BAPA/BAMA REPORT

In Steve Rota’s absence, Greg Black, BCTV, gave the report. He referred to Rota’s Memo to BACB, dated 6/8/16, and pointed out the six (6) completed **BAMA** Programs which were regularly scheduled municipal meetings, Board of Zoning Appeals meeting, Birmingham Advisory Board Meeting, and the BACB meeting.

For the **BAPA** Programs, from the BACB area individual producers and organizations, fifteen (15) programs were taped. He listed all the programs.

Regarding the **PRODUCER WORKSHOP**, Black reminded the Board that one-on-one sessions are offered for those who are interested in producing their own show and to those who want to experience the “behind the scenes” process. Residents can contact BCTV at 248-433-7790 to schedule an appointment date and time. There is no fee for those living in one of the four communities. If you would like to contact him personally, his email is: GBlack@Bloomfieldtwp.org.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Currier referred to a question which was brought up at the last meeting regarding Southfield Township’s inquiry about obtaining a grant from BACB for Comcast internet service. The Township is not a member of BACB. There is no statutory provision (such as that for schools for which BACB provides educational support funding) that would allow for grants to non-members or non-educational groups, plus the Township is larger than our entire four communities. He recommended that the Township contact Comcast directly. If BACB did award a grant to the Township, it might set a precedent for other communities in the future. It was his opinion that the request be denied at this time.

BIRMINGHAM AREA CABLE BOARD MEETING MINUTES – June 15, 2016

Sharon Tischler, Southfield Township Clerk was unable to attend the meeting. However, McLain has been in contact with her and directed her to speak with Kyle Mazurek, who is BACB's Escalation Contact from Comcast. Kyle is aware of the ramifications of this issue and will work with the Township.

Currier also mentioned that yesterday the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia issued an opinion upholding "net neutrality". "Net Neutrality" means that the internet provider cannot give faster service to someone who pays for it. According to a Washington Post article written by Brian Fung and posted on the internet of June 14, 2016, "The 2-1 court ruling forces Internet providers to obey federal regulations that ban the blocking or slowing of Internet traffic to consumers. The regulations from the FCC also forbid carriers from selectively speeding up websites that agree to pay the providers a fee..." It is anticipated that AT&T and other providers will appeal the ruling to the U.S. Supreme Court.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

BOARD COMMENTS

McLain thanked Greg Burry for all of his experience and coming back to BACB. This is his last meeting. Burry expressed his thanks to the Board and noted that the municipalities should be very thankful that this great Board takes care of business for them.

Mira Stakhiv complimented Comcast on its handling of the closing of her Dad's account. They were extremely helpful and made the process very easy for her.

McLain pointed out the PEG meeting would be immediately following this meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 AM.