

Present: Decker, Heldt, McLain, Urcan - Birmingham
Heyman, McFadden, Verdi-Hus, Woodard – Beverly Hills
Ettenson – Bingham Farms
Eads – Franklin

Absent: Abbott, Armitage, Thorsby - Birmingham

Also Present: Borgon - Executive Director
Currier - Attorney for Cable Board
Rota - Bloomfield Community Television representative
Martinico - Director of Technology, Birmingham Schools
Valentine and Glenn – Birmingham staff representatives
John Peterson – AT&T representative
Briggs - Beverly Hills Council liaison

Chairperson McLain called the meeting to order at 7:45 a.m. in the Village of Beverly Hills municipal building at 18500 W. Thirteen Mile Road.

APPROVE MINUTES OF REGULAR CABLE BOARD MEETING OF MAY 20, 2009

Motion by Ettenson, second by Eads, that the minutes of a regular Cable Board meeting held on May 20, 2009 be approved as submitted.

Motion passed.

APPROVE MINUTES OF SPECIAL CABLE BOARD MEETING HELD JUNE 10, 2009

Motion by Woodard, second by Heyman, that the minutes of a special Cable Board meeting held on June 10, 2009 be approved as submitted.

Motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Hildreth Buterbaugh of Beverly Hills related that he received a letter dated May 29, 2009 from Comcast regarding new services available. The letter stated that Comcast would provide subscribers with up to two digital adapters at no additional charge as an enhancement to their cable package. Since he is now paying for two digital cable boxes, Buterbaugh asked if he can now receive the boxes at no charge.

The Comcast representative was not present at today's meeting. Borgon and McLain related information they have received on the enhancement of Comcast's product but suggested that Buterbaugh call Comcast directly for an answer to his inquiries on this topic.

Buterbaugh commented that Comcast customers received HBO and Cinemax at no charge last weekend, but that the offering was not well publicized.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Cable Action Committee

McLain reported on the last Cable Action Committee meeting in the absence of committee chairperson Mark Armitage. Those in attendance did some brainstorming on the need for the Cable Board to review its mission statement and develop long range plans that would be communicated to the municipalities.

There was also discussion regarding a letter issued by the Michigan Public Service Commission inferring that video/cable television complaints should be filed with their office. McLain mentioned that Board members met with a few of the Commissioners recently at a luncheon and asked them what they recommended regarding customer complaints. They responded that the Board could continue to handle complaints or refer them to the MPSC. McLain contacted Ryan McAnany of the MPSC, who is encouraging people to call the Commission directly with complaints so that they can detect patterns for their report at the end of the year.

McLain asked Attorney Tim Currier what the Board should be doing with regard to the complaint process. Currier responded that subscribers in the consortium communities should bring their complaints to the Cable Board. He related that there is still an unresolved issue in terms of State and Federal Law regarding the authority over complaints. Federal law empowers the Cable Board to handle customer complaints. Currier emphasized that this Board does not attempt to be punitive to the cable provider. It is in business to serve the citizen customers who are interested in having their problems solved. More direct and faster results occur when customers contact the Cable Board rather than contact the MPSC in Lansing.

Ettenson suggested including a statement on the BACB website indicating that this Board remains the resource for consumer complaints. It was noted that there is a link to the MPSC on the website.

PEG Committee

PEG Committee chairperson Heldt stated that there are two issues that require Board consideration today. He reported that a firm quote of \$12,303.00 for equipment costs has been received from AT&T regarding connection of the consortium's PEG channels to the U-Verse product.

McLain provided additional information on the total cost of the equipment and related support system and commented on the rebate offered by AT&T on the cost of equipment. It is proposed that the Board enter into a three-year contract for a digital line to provide the connection at a cost of \$1,032.15 per month. This 4.5 MB line will provide for expansion of technology into the future.

McLain disclosed that the three-year contract with AT&T exceeds the length of the Board's contract with Bloomfield Community Television through 2011. Heldt supported taking advantage of what AT&T is offering even though it extends a year beyond the current term of the Board's BCTV contract. The BCTV partnership works well and is likely to continue. In response to an inquiry, John Peterson of AT&T said that the company could rewrite a contract to accommodate the situation if the physical location changed for some reason.

Motion by Heldt, second by Eads, that the Birmingham Area Cable Board approve the expenditure of \$12,303.00 in accordance with the quote from AT&T for hardware costs subject to receiving a rebate, and that the Cable Board further authorize its Chairperson to enter into a three-year contract for the 4.5 MB Managed Internet Service at a cost of \$1,032.15 per month.

Roll Call Vote:

Motion passed unanimously.

Heldt reported that the PEG Committee is close to finalizing a contract that will allow Bloomfield Community Television to use the BACB production truck. There is a contract for shared use in that BCTV provides programming for Bloomfield Township channels and for BACB channels when programs are equally applicable for all communities. On occasion, BCTV will produce a program such as a Township homeowner association meeting that is not of interest to the subscribers in the BACB consortium. The shared use contract will apply to those times when BCTV will use the production truck for their own purposes. Heldt expects that this contract will be ready for signature and Board approval by the July meeting.

The Board was informed that there is a possible generator problem with the production truck. Steve Rota related a situation that occurred while taping from the truck in Booth Park. Productions taped in Booth Park require running the generator, which will occur all summer until Shain Park is renovated. The problem involved loss of power to the cameras due to a power spike related to the use of the generator to run the equipment and the air conditioning simultaneously. Roscor Corporation is dealing with Frontline, the company that provided the generator. It is anticipated that a new generator will be furnished to permit the proper function of the truck with air conditioning.

McLain asked that Rota copy Executive Director Borgon on all communication with Roscor and Frontline regarding the production truck.

Personnel Committee

Ettenson reported that all positions for Birmingham representatives on the Cable Board have been filled with the recent appointment Gordon Thorsby by the Birmingham City Commission.

GRANT REQUEST – BEVERLY HILLS

The Beverly Hills Public Safety Department submitted a request to the Cable Board for a grant to cover the cost of its monthly Internet access for the Department building. This would be a renewal of a grant that was approved by the Board for the last six months of the 2008/09 fiscal year.

Birmingham staff liaison Joe Valentine stated that, at the time this grant was awarded to Beverly Hills, a subsequent grant was awarded to the City of Birmingham. He requested that the Cable Board renew the grant awarded to Birmingham Police Department for Internet service at this time.

Motion by Heldt, second by Ettenson, to approve grant requests from the Village of Beverly Hills Public Safety Department and the City of Birmingham Police Department for Internet access at a cost not to exceed \$100 per month for the fiscal year to end June 30, 2010.

Roll Call Vote:

Decker	- Aye
Heldt	- Aye
McLain	- Aye
Urcan	- Aye
Heyman	- Aye
McFadden	- Aye
Verdi-Hus	- Aye
Woodard	- Abstain
Eads	- Aye
Ettenson	- Aye

Motion passed (9 ayes – 0 nays – 1 abstention).

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

At a special meeting of the Cable Board held on June 10, 2009, bids were opened and the high bid was accepted for purchase of the old production truck. It was the consensus of the Board to have the cable channel logos and identification removed at the Cable Board's expense before the truck was transferred to the new owner. A bid for this work was received in the amount of \$300 from Majik Graphics Inc.

Motion by Heldt, second by McFadden, to authorize the expenditure of \$300 to remove the logos from the old production truck.

Motion passed unanimously.

Two Comcast customer complaints were received in the last month, and both have been resolved. Borgon gave a shout out to customer service representative Shani for her quick resolution of complaints. He announced that Olivia Visperas will be the new Government Affairs Manager replacing John Gardner beginning in July.

Borgon stated that the 2009/10 budget has been finalized with a copy sent to the municipalities with a cover letter. There have been no comments from the consortium communities on the budget. Borgon will attend the June 29 meeting of the Birmingham City Commission to present the Cable Board budget.

According to the Bylaws of the Cable Board, election of officers will be held at next month's meeting for Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer.

COMCAST RELATED TOPICS

McLain said that she monitors the web sites of both providers. She observed an enhancement on the Comcast website, the Comcast Customer Guarantee. AT&T has something similar that focuses on customer service. She urged subscribers who have concerns about customer service to access the provider websites.

AT&T RELATED TOPICS

John Peterson was present representing AT&T. He thanked the Board for its action to begin the process of implementing BACB programming for AT&T customers in its communities.

Peterson did not have any new developments to report with respect to the AT&T U-verse product. He noted that May 21 was the second anniversary of AT&T's launch in Metro Detroit. There are 230 communities in Michigan offering U-verse today, and AT&T continues to roll out its product across the state.

McLain displayed a door hanger with wording that leads residents to believe that U-verse is available to them. The small print at the bottom says that the product might not be available yet. There is another door hanger that tells a resident "Congratulations, U-verse is available". She understands that this is a marketing issue, but this is frustrating to people who want competition.

Peterson responded that the door-to-door people may get overzealous with dropping off literature. It is an issue that AT&T is trying to monitor and manage.

Heldt questioned the status of the Birmingham Schools hookup to the AT&T U-verse product. Martinico reported that the encoder was received last week, and she hopes to report that it is up and working at next month's meeting.

MLTV15/ PA 18 REPORT

Steve Rota from Bloomfield Community Television reported on programming taped for Municipal Channel 15 (BAMA) and PA Channel 18 (BAPA) during the last month and noted upcoming programs of interest (information included in BCTV monthly report for May 21, 2009 through June 17, 2009).

Birmingham Concerts in the Park have been moved to Booth Park this summer every Wednesday starting at 7:00 p.m. Two people attended a volunteer workshop held two weeks ago. The Program Development Committee will be meeting tomorrow morning, June 18.

Rota reported that he spoke with Joe Valentine and someone from the Birmingham engineering department on the topic of installing a Triax underground drop at Shain Park for use at future concerts. This will afford efficient hookup capabilities for the production truck and provide a safe environment for residents who attend the park during events when the BACB truck is being used. Rota will be reviewing the blueprints and drawings today with Valentine and the engineering department. The Board will be updated on the feasibility and costs of this undertaking.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Hildreth Buterbaugh of Beverly Hills questioned the difference between a digital receiver and a digital adapter, which was addressed by McLain.

BOARD COMMENTS

None

The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 a.m.