

Present: Armitage, Heldt, Kelly, Thorsby - Birmingham
Burry, McFadden, Pfeifer – Beverly Hills
Ettenson – Bingham Farms
Eads – Franklin

Absent: Birmingham – Lurie and McLain
Beverly Hills – Heyman and Verdi-Hus

Also Present: Borgon – Executive Director
Currier - Attorney for Cable Board
Rota - Bloomfield Community Television representative
Dr. Hoffman - Birmingham Schools representative
Valentine – Birmingham staff representative

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

McFadden read the mission statement of the Birmingham Area Cable Board: *It is the mission of the Board to advocate for the City of Birmingham and the Villages of Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms, and Franklin and their citizens in order to maximize the quality and value of services of cable and related communications providers and support the delivery of public, education and governmental programming.*

APPROVE MINUTES OF CABLE BOARD MEETING HELD APRIL 18, 2012

On page 2 in the paragraph preceding the motion, change the first sentence to read as follows: “Armitage questioned the need for more 3-5 minute social media videos of the shallow and superficial type.”

Motion by Ettenson, second by Heldt, that the minutes of a regular Cable Board meeting held on April 18, 2012 be approved as amended.

Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

APPROVE 2012-13 BUDGET

The proposed Cable Board Budget for 2012/13 prepared by Executive Director Borgon and Treasurer McFadden has been distributed to the Board. McFadden related that the Cable Action Committee reviewed and discussed every line item in the budget at its last meeting. He referenced the most recent draft of the budget document distributed to members prior to the meeting. The draft budget represents the best efforts of a number of members to accurately provide a roadmap to conduct Cable Board business.

Motion by Ettenson, second by Pfeifer, to approve the proposed Birmingham Area Cable Board Budget for Fiscal Year 2012-13 and forward copies of the document to the member municipalities for their review and comment.

Borgon provided an overview of the budget document noting reasons for changes that have occurred since the last draft was distributed to the Board. Beverly Hills Finance Director Bob Wiszowaty has provided assistance and input on the figures presented in the final document as well as the budget support worksheet comparing the 2011-12 budget, 2011-12 actual (projected FY end), and proposed 2012-13 budgets. Borgon reviewed variances between this year's budget and the proposed 2011/12 budget numbers.

Thorsby referred to the difference in the PEG operations total from the current year budget to the proposed budget for 2012-13. Borgon responded that the difference is due to an administrative grant of \$276,000 rebated to the four municipalities. Thorsby asked for a footnote in this year's budget noting the reason for the decrease in total PEG operations expense projected for 2012-13. Heldt suggested that the budget document account for any future administrative grants separate from the PEG Operations grant line item for the reason that the source of the administrative grant is not PEG money.

Questions from Thorsby on the proposed budget versus previous drafts were addressed by McFadden. Thorsby made the point that the final budget draft and supporting documents presented to the Board at today's meeting merits further review.

Motion by Thorsby, second by Armitage, to table consideration of the Birmingham Area Cable Board Budget for fiscal year 2012-13.

Roll Call Vote:

Armitage	- yes
Heldt	- no
Kelly	- no
Thorsby	- yes
McFadden	- no
Pfeifer	- no
Burry	- no
Eads	- no
Ettenson	- no

Motion fails (7 – 2).

Pfeifer commented that the proposed budget is a projection of revenue and expenses for the next fiscal year. The budget can be amended by the Board. She remarked that the annual audit report is a critical document.

Thorsby related that his questions have to do with the 2011-12 actual figures compared to the 2012-13 budget and whether the proposed budget figures are realistic. He did not think that inquiries on these comparisons have been answered satisfactorily.

Roll Call Vote on budget adoption:

Heldt	- yes
Kelly	- yes
Thorsby	- no
McFadden	- yes

Pfeifer - yes
Burry - yes
Eads - yes
Ettenson - yes
Armitage - yes

Motion passed (8 – 1).

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Cable Action Committee

McFadden stated that the next Cable Action Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, June 7 at 5:30 pm at the Baldwin Public Library. Eads reported that a web development subcommittee meeting will be scheduled when members Verdi-Hus and Lurie return from travelling. It is anticipated that this will occur within the next 30 days.

PEG Committee

Heldt had nothing to report. The PEG Committee will have a brief meeting following today's Board meeting.

Personnel Committee

Ettenson mentioned that there is still one opening on the Cable Board for a City of Birmingham representative.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Borgon reported on three official customer complaints received this month. The Executive Director's report contained financial reports, check disbursements, and website statistics. Borgon mentioned that Comcast has established a new phone number to directly access Comcast's Xfinity Operating Center. This number will connect to a live agent for use in emergencies only and for PEG issues.

Borgon referred to an addition to the Cable Board's website called "Cable Conundrum". He read the message currently posted on the website:

Cable Conundrum

Why not celebrate Michigan's change of seasons?

Analyze your cable bill and review your telecom services. Check out the provider websites (and/or satellite), listen to advertised specials and consider making a call to Customer Service to revisit options and prices.

The Birmingham Area Cable Board protects the revenue stream, invites competition, escalates complaints and supports Public Educational and Governmental programming for the City of Birmingham and the Villages of Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms and Franklin.

We build a better consumer. We are your voice in cable affairs. We look forward to hearing from you,

Elaine McLain, Chairman, BACB

PROVIDER RELATED TOPICS

It was noted that there were no representatives in attendance from Comcast, WOW or AT&T.

McFadden commented on current telecommunications articles with respect to the future of cable television. There are a number of models saying that wireless is the way to go. However, you still have to get a signal to the wireless device, and there is a bandwidth issue. There is a new technology currently under development for 3D television without glasses; it is called 3D + 4K. The reality is that very high definition will emulate 3D viewing. To deliver this 4K stream requires as much as 17 Megabits per second. Unfortunately, bandwidth is not unlimited, nor is it free.

McFadden reported that high-speed wireless provider LightSquared, Inc. filed for bankruptcy, meaning that the companies in place are the ones that the Board will be dealing with. The work of this Board in the foreseeable future will be to educate consumers and do an excellent job of working with our providers to deliver high quality and reliable services.

Ettenson related that a recent Consumer Reports survey indicated that WideOpenWest rated in first place for all of the triple play services it provides.

BAMA/BAPA REPORT

Steve Rota highlighted programming outlined in the written report from Bloomfield Community Television on programming taped for Municipal Channel 15 (BAMA), PA Channel 18 (BAPA), and programming from BACB area organizations during the last month (information included in BCTV monthly report for April 91, 2012 – May 16, 2012).

Upcoming programs include the Celebrate Birmingham Parade on Sunday, May 20; Birmingham Concert Band Memorial Concert on Sunday, May 27 at White Chapel; City of Birmingham Memorial Day Service on Monday, May 28; and Village of Beverly Hills Memorial Day Parade and Carnival on Monday, May 28.

BCTV staff gave a Tiger Scout tour of their facility last week. The next camera workshop is scheduled for Tuesday, July 17 from 10:00 am until noon and 6:30 – 8:30 pm.

Rota informed the Board that a camera from the production truck did not work at a shoot last week. Attempts by BCTV staff to troubleshoot problems with the camera failed, so it will be taken to AVI for repairs. The monitor for the truck camera currently being repaired will require additional funds to complete the work at a cost not to exceed \$470.00, bringing the total repair cost to almost \$1,700. It was noted that the Grass Valley HD monitor has been shipped out of the country for repairs.

Motion by Pfeifer, second by Eads, that the Birmingham Area Cable Board authorize an additional expenditure not to exceed \$470.00 to repair a camera used by BCTV.

Thorsby questioned the number of repair issues with HD cameras, which was addressed by Rota. Rota did not have an answer for why the cameras are breaking down. They are securely stored and well maintained; Grass Valley is a high quality brand. Thorsby suggested that the Cable Board consider purchasing future equipment from a vendor located in the United States to avoid shipping equipment out of the country for repair.

Roll Call Vote:
Motion passed (9 – 0).

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

McFadden stated that the Regulatory Law Section of the State Bar of Michigan will be hosting a luncheon on Wednesday, May 23 with the Michigan Public Service Commissioners at The University Club at Michigan State University. The featured speaker will be Valerie Brader, senior strategy advisor to the Governor's Office and former energy policy officer for the Michigan Economic Development Corporation. McFadden plans to attend and asked if any other members were interested in this event. The cost is \$40 per person.

Motion by Pfeifer, second by Ettenson, that the Birmingham Area Cable Board authorize the expenditure of \$80 for two Board members to attend a luncheon with the Michigan Public Service Commission on May 23, 2012.

Roll Call Vote:
Motion passed (9 – 0).

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

BOARD COMMENTS

None

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 a.m.