

Present: Armitage, Heldt, Lurie, McLain, Thorsby - Birmingham
Heyman, McFadden, Pfeifer, Verdi-Hus – Beverly Hills
Bingham Farms – Ettenson
Eads – Franklin

Absent: Kelly – Birmingham

Also Present: Borgon – Executive Director
Currier - Attorney for Cable Board
Rota - Bloomfield Community Television representative
Valentine – Birmingham staff representative
Armstead – WOW representative
Burry – 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 CABLE BOARD MEETING HELD MAY 16, 2012

Motion by Heldt, second by Eads, that the minutes of a regular Cable Board meeting held on May 16, 2012 be approved as submitted.

Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Cable Action Committee

McFadden announced that the next meeting of the Cable Action Committee will be held on Thursday, July 5 at 5:30 pm at the Baldwin Public Library.

Verdi-Hus reported that the Committee is in the process of revising the BACB website to be more user friendly and information oriented. There will be updates and tweaks to the existing structure of the website. The Board will receive a report at its July meeting on various website components and their costs. Work is being done on a new logo design for the Cable Board.

McFadden commented that the Cable Action Committee produced the annual budget letter to the communities that was mailed with a copy of the 2012/13 FY budget for their review. Last month, McFadden was present at a meeting of the Regulatory Law Section of the Michigan State Bar with Michigan Public Service Commissioners in attendance. One of the topics that was addressed had to do with energy. He will send a detailed report on the meeting to Board members.

McFadden referred to a recent article forwarded to the Board about “cord-cutting”, people getting rid of cable television. There have been a number of articles on alternative television watching. Latest figures indicate that approximately 6.9 million people have disconnected from cable and pay TV services for primarily economic reasons. McFadden noted that the cable TV operators’ business model is set on bundling. As the cost of packages increase and content

becomes more expensive, people may not want to pay for bundled packages. At some point, cable operators may offer a la carte programming to consumers.

PEG Committee

Heldt stated that there will be a PEG meeting following today's regular Board meeting. A topic of discussion will be equipment maintenance and repair as well as longevity issues.

Personnel Committee

Ettenson reported that the Personnel Committee met last week to begin its annual Executive Director performance review. Input has been requested from Board members. The Committee will meet again in July to continue the process. Ettenson announced that there is an opening on the Cable Board for a representative from Birmingham.

Grant Policy Committee

Pfeifer reviewed that the Cable Board adopted a grant policy in January of 2012. Board members are in receipt of a sheet listing the approved grants for 2011/2012. A provision of the grant policy is that qualifying entities shall account for all grant funds expended and at such intervals as the BACB shall prescribe. Further, qualifying entities must return all funds not expended for specified grant purposes and/or not expended in the required time frame. Pfeifer noted that the administrative grants issued to member municipalities are in a different category; the municipalities are not required to report on how they spend money returned to them.

Pfeifer recommended that the Executive Director send a letter to the entities that requested and received grant funds asking them to prepare an accounting of those grant funds and forward that documentation to the Cable Board. She suggested that the entities be provided with a copy of the BACB Grant Policy.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Borgon reported that there were three official complaints received this month from subscribers, two regarding AT&T and one pertaining to Comcast. The issues dealt with reception, both audio and visual. Borgon has provided members with monthly financial statements and website statistics.

Beier Howlett has completed its review of provider franchise fee and PEG fee payments for 2009 and 2010. Their review indicates that there were no underpayments by the three providers. Letters have been sent to Comcast, AT&T and WOW.

Borgon commented on an equipment issue that occurred last month with a camera needed for shooting scheduled events. He authorized repair of the camera to enable BCTV to cover its obligations.

Motion by Heldt, second by Pfeifer, that the Birmingham Area Cable Board authorize the expenditure for camera repair to AVI Systems in the amount of \$1,356.00.

Questions from Board members were addressed by Rota.

Roll Call Vote:
Motion passed (11- 0).

Borgon informed the Board that the annual summer meeting of Michigan NATOA will be held on July 26 at the Bayside Sports Grille in Walled Lake at noon. He and McLain plan on attending. Board members interested in attending should contact Borgon.

Chairperson McLain and Treasurer McFadden will attend the June 25 Birmingham Commission Meeting to present the 2012/13 Cable Board budget and answer any questions. Election of officers will be an agenda item for next month's meeting.

PROVIDER RELATED TOPICS

Comcast

There was some discussion on customer complaint #5-72 regarding problems with Comcast phone service, cable and Internet. Subscribers were advised to provide Comcast with an alternate contact phone number and a backup email address to make it easier for the provider to contact them.

Leslie Brogan informed the Board in a letter that Comcast will charge \$1.99 per month for each new Digital Adapter Additional Outlet Service subscribed to on or after July 1, 2012 by customers with Digital Starter and above video services.

AT&T

There were no representatives present from AT&T. McLain summarized two complaints received in the last month regarding AT&T service.

WOW

Kathy Armstead announced the addition of a number of channels to the WOW lineup on June 27. She reported that WOW participated in the Birmingham Village Fair and Beverly Hills Memorial Day Parade. They are currently participating in the Birmingham Farmers Market on Sundays.

Armitage asked whether WOW would consider providing a la carte programming service. Armstead responded that it is a matter of programming costs, but a la carte service is something that WOW will be looking at. Eads suggested that a step towards a la carte programming might be a greater variety in the bundling of channels.

McLain suggested that the providers send a representative to the Cable Board meetings at least once a quarter.

BAMA/PAPA 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 May 17, 2012 – June 20, 2012).

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.

There has been a concern about AT&T being off the air intermittently. Rota remarked that McLain has emailed BCTV staff when AT&T is off the air. The Bloomfield Community

Television studio has no way of monitoring what is occurring on the AT&T Channel. The studio is not within the provider's area, and there is no commercial product available. BCTV relies on phone calls or emails from residents when there is a problem. Rota will be contacting AT&T about programming and reception difficulties, particularly with PEG channels. McLain suggested that AT&T subscribers who are having problems with channel reception could call or email BCTV (248-433-7790) so measures can be taken to resolve the issue.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Verdi-Hus added to her previous comments on updating the BACB website. She informed the Board that the Cable Action Committee will consider adding a grid showing 15 second capsules of shows coming through the system.

McLain stated that the annual NATOA meeting will be held in New Orleans this year. How the Board can participate in the conference and receive valuable information will be addressed.

McLain noted that WiFi is available at the Birmingham Farmers Market and in Shain Park. She informed the Board that City Manager Bob Bruner spoke at the last Rotary Club meeting on the topics of partnership and volunteerism. McLain noted that she is scheduled to meet with State Representative Chuck Moss to discuss the Community Access Preservation Act (CAP Act).

Armitage expressed the view that it was ill advised for the Cable Board not to attend the annual NATOA (National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors) meeting. He thought that the Board should pay the registration fee and reasonable expenses for a few representatives of the Board to attend the conference. Armitage proposed further discussion on the travel prohibition that prevents individuals from attending an out-of-state conference of this quality that is essential for the Cable Board to do its job.

Birmingham staff representative Valentine remarked that there were cost saving measures placed on travel during a period of declining revenue and budget scrutiny. Some of the limitations placed on travel for conferences has been revisited in Birmingham. There is a redefinition of that policy given the nature of the economy. The Board may want to consider revisiting its policy as well.

McLain commented on the importance of BACB representation at the NATOA conference. She will meet with representatives from the municipalities on the Board's behalf to discuss their policies for attending out-of-state conferences.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

BOARD COMMENTS

None

The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 a.m.