

BIRMINGHAM AREA CABLE BOARD MEETING MINUTES – JANUARY 20, 2021

Present: Abraham (Birmingham), Eick (Birmingham), Fenberg (Birmingham), Elaine McLain (Birmingham), Shand (Birmingham). Cleary (Florida)– Birmingham
Tootell (Beverly Hills) – Beverly Hills
Blackburn (Bingham Farms) – Bingham Farms
Mydloski (Franklin) - Franklin

Absent: Gugni, Henry, Burry

Also Present: White - BACB Executive Director (Livonia)
Currier – Attorney for Cable Board
Rota – Bloomfield Community Television
Brunk – IT Manager, City of Birmingham

McLain, called the meeting to order at 7:49 AM via Remote Zoom.us with closed captioning. Each member identified his/her present location, as indicated above. She welcomed the new members: Jim Cleary from Birmingham, Kathleen Tootell from Beverly Hills and Lisa Blackburn from Bingham Farms.

APPROVE MINUTES OF CABLE BOARD MEETING HELD December 16, 2020.

Motion by Shand, seconded by Fenberg to approve the minutes of the Cable Board meeting on December 16, 2020, as presented.

On page 3, McLain requested that the red line at the bottom of the page be erased.

Motion by Shand, seconded by Fenberg to approve the minutes of the Cable Board meeting on December 16, 2020, as amended.

Roll Call Vote

Fenberg	Aye
Eick	Aye
Abraham	Aye
Mydloski	Aye
Shand	Aye
Tootell	Aye
Cleary	Aye
Blackburn	Aye
McLain	Aye

Motion Passed. (9-0).

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments at this time.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Fenberg reported the financial information for MBS, BBCU and Beverly Hills accounts as of December 31, 2020. For the new members, he explained why the BACB’s investments mature at different times, using a “ladder system”.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Cable Action Committee

Abraham reported that the CAC did not have a meeting in January 2021 as there was nothing to discuss. The next scheduled meeting via Zoom will be Thursday, February 4, 2021. McLain suggested the newest members attend this meeting so they can go over the New Member Manual. For those who can not attend, an individual meeting can be scheduled.

PEG Committee

Mydloski stated the committee did not have a PEG meeting last month; however, on January 6 she attended the Program Development Committee meeting for BCTV, which will be discussed later in this meeting. There will be a PEG meeting directly following this meeting. McLain explained that the PEG meeting is open to anyone on the Board. PEG stands for Public Educational and Governmental Television.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

White referred to her monthly report dated January 14, 2021. There was only one (1) complaint since her last report. It was from a Franklin resident who stated that AT&T had improperly installed a cable wire from a telephone pole along hers and her neighbor's property line. The cable was hanging about a foot off the ground. This complaint is pending.

FINANCIAL

Financial information for MBS, BBCU and Beverly Hills accounts as of December 31, 2020 was sent to the Board Members last night.

White wrote five (5) checks since the last meeting: the four (4) largest checks were for the Administrative Grants.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

BACB sometimes crosses over into telecommunication matters. In this case, she reported about the bombing in Nashville and the impact it had on the telecommunications infrastructure which created major regional issues, especially with AT&T. She detailed the telecommunications outages in Tennessee, Kentucky and Alabama. Because of this, a U.S. Representative from Nashville wanted Congress to examine and reduce telecommunication vulnerabilities.

White will be compiling and emailing a new Board Member roster this month to all Board Members.

Tootell commented that the Nashville incident brought up the importance of connectivity and having a contingency plan. Due to her data communications network services and equipment experience, she has some background in these connectivity issues. She offered to help BACB if there was an interest in pursuing this matter. McLain suggested this be brought up in the CAC meeting. Tootell also added that censorship of peoples' voices being silenced was increasing on the different platforms. She questioned if there would be more demand on public access to be able to have a way of communicating more openly? Might BACB want to have some discussions about this? McLain noted that Rota would have and can explain specific rules and regulations to which BACB must conform.

McLain directed some questions to White about this month's Financials concerning the PEG and Franchise fees. White reminded her that this was a monthly report and directed her attention to the third column which reflected the revenues received up to December 20, 2020. White continued by explaining the specific quarterly payment process the providers follow. She also explained the process of transferring money to the Credit Union if or when the Fund Balance of an account is above a certain amount.

White answered Mydloski's inquiry about the memberships BACB has: the National NATOA, Michigan NATOA and Birmingham Chamber of Commerce.

Currier answered some questions posed by Tootell regarding the interlocal agreement, funding and restrictions. Tootell also questioned if there was any alternative funding for BACB.

PROVIDER RELATED TOPICS

McLain gave a brief explanation that in the past each provider would have a representative come to these meetings; however, that has changed. Kyle Mazurek from Comcast will still come for his quarterly visit which is much appreciated. For the new members, each provider has an escalation team or individual who will work on any complaints or concerns BACB received from a resident about service or connectivity. She explained the process, pointing out that typically complaints are resolved within 24 hours after received by BACB.

White said that Mazurek from Comcast has sent her some information and she will report on it next month.

a. Comcast

There was no representative present and no new information received.

b. AT&T/Uverse/Direct TV

There was no representative present and no new information received.

c. WOW

There was no representative present and no new information received.

BAPA/BAMA REPORT

Steve Rota wished everyone a Happy New Year and welcomed the new Board members. He is the Operation Manager at Bloomfield Community Television and expounded on his responsibilities and duties.

He referred to his January 14, 2021 report and listed all the completed **BAMA** regularly scheduled municipal meetings: the BACB meeting, Parks and Rec Board meeting, Zoning Board meeting, Advisory Parking Committee meeting, the Multi-Modal Board meeting, Bingham Farms Council meeting and the Baldwin Public Library meeting.

He thanked Eric Brunk and his team who have been covering some of the Birmingham meetings since this past March.

For the **BAPA** Programs, 15 programs by producers and organizations, which he identified, were taped through Zoom and require everyone to come into the studio and record on the computer. He was pleased that the programs are continuing via Zoom and would be broadcast on the website and on the channel.

PRODUCER WORKSHOP

As usual, for those interested in producing a program, please call the office at 248-433-7790 to schedule a future appointment. When it is safe, the studio will reopen to do those shows. Producer Workshops would also resume and those interested would be able to volunteer to learn and experience behind the scenes.

STUDIO UPDATE

For the safety of all during this pandemic, BCTV continues using Zoom for all studio productions. Once the “all clear” notice is posted to reopen the studio to do shows, he will advise everyone. He thanked everyone for their patience and the producers for their flexibility doing their shows through Zoom.

PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

Referring to the already mentioned Committee meeting (Mydloski, Rota, Black and Diane Burk, a Birmingham resident, were in attendance) which was held January 6, 2021, two (2) new shows via Zoom were proposed and approved. However, both producers chose to wait until the studio opened before they began production. Pre-production will begin as soon as possible.

A PEG meeting will follow this meeting.

Rota reported that usually 700-800 shows are produced a year. These would include the public programs, the organizational programs, the sporting programs and all the meetings. The numbers for 2020 were different due to the pandemic; however, hopefully, that will change. He also identified and explained the responsibilities of all the staff members, part time workers and volunteers.

In addition, Rota informed the new members and residents how to view the different programming including all meetings: on the BACB website, on the Video on Demand portion of the website for past shows from 2010 to the current 2021, on the individual community’s website and any rebroadcasts on WOW, Comcast or AT&T. For those who cut the cord, the programs can be seen on any community website, as well as on a phone.

At the moment no tours are scheduled; however, when it is deemed safe to have people in the studio Rota will continue the tours for all new and old members.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS.

Jim Cleary gave some background information about himself, including his advertising and marketing career and why he joined the Cable Board. McLain was very positive about the expertise he could bring to the Board.

Kathleen Tootell, now retired, began her diverse professional career in the telecommunication industry at Michigan Bell in the marketing department. She worked for a data communication manufacturer, sold fiberoptics and years later after getting her degree in Communications ended her career in advertising sales for Yellow Pages. She is a long-time resident of Beverly Hills and has been involved in the Village's different issues.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were none.

BOARD COMMENTS

McLain asked Blackburn her reasons for coming to the Cable Board. Blackburn recognized it will be hard to fill Mel Ettenson's shoes in representing Bingham Farms; however, she saw a new opportunity for her to volunteer in the community.

McLain provided some information about Bingham Farms, emphasizing Ettenson's long-standing involvement in the community, which included his final achievement of initiating the broadcasting of its Council meetings.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:47 AM.