

BIRMINGHAM AREA CABLE BOARD MEETING MINUTES – July 15, 2020

Present: Abraham, Eick, Fenberg, McLain - Birmingham
 Burry, Delaney, Gugni, Henry – Beverly Hills
 Mydloski – Franklin

Absent: Shand - Birmingham

Also Present: White - BACB Executive Director
 Currier – Attorney for Cable Board
 Levens – Executive Director of Technology, Birmingham Public Schools
 Rota – Bloomfield Community Television
 Brunk – IT Manager, City of Birmingham

McLain called the meeting to order at 7:47 AM via Remote Zoom.us meeting with closed captioning.

McLain requested that **MUNICIPAL SUPPORT SERVICES GRANT REQUEST FROM FRANKLIN-BINGHAM FIRE DEPARTMENT** be added to the agenda, following **ANNUAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS.**

Motion by Burry, seconded by Gugni to adopt the agenda , as amended.

Roll Call Vote:

Fenberg	Aye
Abraham	Aye
Henry	Aye
Gugni	Aye
Delaney	Aye
Burry	Aye
Mydloski	Aye
Eick	Aye
McLain	Aye

Absent: Shand
 Motion Passed. (9-0).

APPROVE MINUTES OF CABLE BOARD MEETING HELD June 17, 2020.

Motion by Fenberg, seconded by Eick to approve the minutes of the Cable Board Meeting on June 17, 2020, as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

Fenberg	Aye
Abraham	Aye
Henry	Aye
Gugni	Aye
Delaney	Aye
Burry	Aye
Mydloski	Aye
Eick	Aye
McLain	Aye

Absent: Shand
 Motion Passed. (9-0).

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments at this time.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Fenberg reported that as of June 30, 2020 the balance in the Multi-Bank account was \$792,280.00. For the six (6) months ending June 30, BACB had received \$9,899.00 of interest income. The next maturity coming up will be in October for \$135,000.00. In June the maturity was for \$48,000.00 and BACB was able to purchase a CD for \$52,000.00; however, the rate for a one-year CD was .15% which demonstrates the significant decrease in interest rates. Two (2) months earlier BACB had received 1.25%. In March, 2021 the maturity will be \$210,000.00. Future maturities will be in April, July, September and October, 2022 for \$95,000.00.

McLain explained that maturities were always tiered in case of emergencies.

ANNUAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS

McLain explained there is an election of officers once a year at the beginning of the Fiscal Year (July 1) and the election takes place at the first meeting of BACB's new Fiscal Year.

Currier gave an overview of the process for electing Officers.

Motion by Gugni, seconded by Fenberg to nominate David Eick to continue as Secretary of the Cable Board. There were no further nominations. McLain closed the nominations. Eick accepted the nomination.

Roll Call Vote:

Fenberg	Aye
Abraham	Aye
Henry	Aye
Gugni	Aye
Delaney	Aye
Burry	Aye
Mydloski	Aye
Eick	Aye
McLain	Aye

Absent: Shand
 Motion Passed. (9-0).

Motion by Mydloski, seconded by Eick to nominate Michael Fenberg to continue as Treasurer of the Cable Board. There were no further nominations. McLain closed the nominations. Fenberg accepted the nomination.

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Roll Call Vote:

Fenberg	Aye
Abraham	Aye
Henry	Aye
Gugni	Aye
Delaney	Aye
Burry	Aye
Mydloski	Aye
Eick	Aye
McLain	Aye

Absent: Shand
Motion Passed. (9-0).

Motion by Eick, seconded by Fenberg to nominate Gil Gugni to continue as Vice Chairman of the Cable Board. There were no further nominations. McLain closed the nominations. Gugni accepted the nomination.

Roll Call Vote:

Fenberg	Aye
Abraham	Aye
Henry	Aye
Gugni	Aye
Delaney	Aye
Burry	Aye
Mydloski	Aye
Eick	Aye
McLain	Aye

Absent: Shand
Motion Passed. (9-0).

Motion by Eick, seconded by Fenberg to nominate Elaine McLain to continue as Chairman of the Cable Board. There were no further nominations. McLain closed the nominations. McLain accepted the nomination.

Roll Call Vote:

Fenberg	Aye
Abraham	Aye
Henry	Aye
Gugni	Aye
Delaney	Aye
Burry	Aye
Mydloski	Aye

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Eick Aye
 McLain Aye

Absent: Shand
 Motion Passed. (9-0).

George Abraham volunteered to continue as the Cable Action Committee Chairman, Heather Mydloski will continue as PEG Committee Chairman and Gil Gugni volunteered to continue as Personnel Committee Chairman.

MUNICIPAL SUPPORT SERVICES GRANT REQUEST FROM FRANKLIN-BINGHAM FIRE DEPARTMENT

White presented the Fire Department's request to cover Comcast internet access at the fire station for \$114.90 per month and Verizon Wireless internet access for EMS incident reporting for \$119.97 per month. For the fiscal year starting July 1, 2020, the total would be \$2,818.44. White added this would be a Municipal Support Services Grant line item. It has been done in the past and there was money in the Budget.

Motion by Mydloski, seconded by Eick to approve a **Municipal Support Services Grant** request from the Franklin-Bingham Farms Fire Department in the amount not to exceed \$2,818.44/yr. to the Franklin-Bingham Farms Fire Department to cover the internet connectivity for Comcast fire station internet service and for Verizon Wireless internet access for EMS incident reporting for FY2020-2021.

Henry requested that a document listing previous grants be created and published. Abraham suggested that such a list be put on the website.

Delaney pointed out several purposes of the agenda being posted in advance of a meeting: transparency and being in accordance with the Open Meeting Act. Frequently adding items at the last minute might possibly create problems. He wanted the Board to keep this in mind when amending the agenda. Mydloski inquired if there was an established timeline for submitting items to be put on the agenda.

Roll Call Vote:

Fenberg Aye
 Abraham Aye
 Henry Aye
 Gugni Aye
 Delaney Aye
 Burry Aye
 Mydloski Aye
 Eick Aye

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McLain Aye

Absent: Shand
Motion Passed. (9-0).

COMMITTEE REPORTS**Cable Action Committee**

Abraham reported there had not been a meeting in July. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 6 at 4:30 PM; however, the actual date, the location or if it would be held via Zoom, would announced later.

PEG Committee

Mydloski welcomed Dwight Levens, Executive Director of Technology, Birmingham Public Schools. He was invited back this month to answer any additional questions the Board might have regarding the request for the grant which would be considered at next month's meeting.

Levens stated that this request was different from those in the past which were specific to the classroom and instructional purposes. This particular support request was for the funding upgrades for the Evergreen Room, which is referred to as the district's Board room where all board meetings are held. Several years ago, BACB provided funding for the installation of the equipment in the room and now it needs to be upgraded and the district does not have available funding. He provided details of the current situation.

Levens explained the bid process which includes obtaining an assessment of the current equipment by a company whose opinion the district respects and its recommendations. If necessary, the district would make specific modifications. Bids are received and a committee within the district reviews those bids and the best selection is made. If BACB approves the grant funding he does a presentation to the Board of Education as it still has to be approved by their internal Board of Education.

Mydloski clarified there was no bond money or any other monies available for this purchase. Levens stated that bond funds primarily go to the classrooms for such things as infrastructure changes.

Levens's response to Delaney's inquiry was that there would not be any additional request for the Evergreen Room. He confirmed that more than one bid would be sought and Advanced Lighting & Sound would likely be a bidder.

Rota explained that the Cable Board actually used this specific room when the Village of Beverly Hills was doing updates to its Council room.

McLain explained this item would be on next month's agenda. For the benefit of the public, she clarified that when grants are given to the schools (which is not very often), the request is for a large amount for equipment and the Board balances all resources when considering the requests.

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Responding to McLain, Levens confirmed that the Board of Education meetings are still being held virtually. This item would be on next month's agenda.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

White referred to her monthly report dated July 7, 2020. There had been one (1) complaint since her last report. The complaint was from a Beverly Hills resident who had Comcast change out all the cables in his house, but mostly outside. After the work was finished his service worked; however, outside there were old cables which had not been removed and were hanging next to the new ones. He had been trying to get Comcast to return to clean up the mess but had been unsuccessful. Finally, he was able to talk with someone on the phone who promised that on June 5, 2020 someone would be out to his house to look at it. This complaint is pending and has been assigned to the Escalation Team.

FINANCIAL

Financial information for MBS, BBCU and Beverly Hills accounts as of June 30, 2020 was emailed to all Board members.

Since the last Board meeting White has written one (1) check on behalf of the BACB to Clearview Captioning (Closed Captioning for Zoom meeting) for the last meeting in the amount of \$150.00.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

Comcast has notified BACB about some rebranding and some channel changes to Xfinity TV services which White included in her report.

McLain commented that recent complaints had been submitted online and have been very complicated. She thanked those who work on the Escalation Team for all their help. The last complaint which White referred to will be discussed in the next meeting as it was about transitioning service before and after a move. For people who were struggling with a problem, call your provider. The call might be recorded so she encouraged residents to write down the date and time of the call, the name of the person to whom you spoke, his/her ID number and, if possible, request some sort of confirmation in writing. Keep good notes. At the moment there is a strain on the system and all three (3) providers have expanded their service, including answering billing questions and taking care of wires hanging in the backyard. This is the best time to handle issues pertaining to wires.

White mentioned that some complaints had come in after her report had been written and would be reported next month.

PROVIDER RELATED TOPICS

a. Comcast

There was no representative present. However, Kyle Mazurek did attend last month's meeting and was unable to come today.

b. AT&T/Uverse/Direct TV

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There was no representative present.

c. WOW

There was no representative present.

White did not have any communication or updates from AT&T or WOW.

BAPA/BAMA REPORT

Rota referred to his July 7, 2020 report.

For the **BAMA** programs he listed all the regularly scheduled municipal meetings that were covered, the BACB meeting, the Parks and Rec Board meeting, Zoning Board meeting, Advisory Parking Committee meeting, the Multi-Modal meeting, Bingham Farms Council meeting and the Baldwin Public Library meeting. Most of the City of Birmingham meetings have been recorded by Eric Brunk and Rota appreciates all the help. These can be watched on the Cable Board website or watch them streaming live on the Birmingham website.

For the **BAPA** Programs, the producers have used Zoom to complete 18 programs, all of which he listed. Unfortunately, there were no recordings on location from the BACB area organizations due to the pandemic and social distancing. At the moment there have not been any one-on-one workshops; however, for those interested in producing a show or learning how to run the equipment, go to the Birmingham Area Cable Board website and/or the Bloomfield Township at Bloomfieldtwp.org, click on “cable forms” and fill out a form. Your name would be put on a list and a date could be scheduled in the future.

The phone number for a workshop is (248)433-7790.

Rota added that the playback system has been upgraded and installed. If outside the viewing area, the programs can be seen on Apple TV and ROKU. Screen Weave would be necessary to find the Birmingham Area Cable Board programs. These programs can also be seen on the BACB website, Video On Demand, as well as Bloomfield Video television On Demand.

McLain thanked Eric Brunk, the IT Manager in Birmingham who assists with all the Zoom meetings and has gone above and beyond the call of duty.

OLD BUSINESS

Mydloski had a question for Rota. In the last PEG meeting, he had mentioned the TC-1 upgrade which would allow remote access. She was wondering about it. Rota stated that he has a quote of under \$500.00 from Advanced Lighting & Sound and would be on the agenda for the August meeting. This was for the City of Birmingham TriCaster upgrade which would allow anyone on staff have access into the TC-1 and record any shows from home rather than being on location. The current pandemic is an example of a recent scenario.

NEW BUSINESS.

Currier commented that he anticipated the Governor would extend the State of Emergency to at least August 11 which would affect the virtual meetings of the Cable Board. The use of masks is now required in public buildings, restaurants and retail stores.

There was no update from the FCC. At the moment he did not know of any applications in Birmingham for 5 G installation but there have been some casual inquiries from some of the providers going to 5G. Some communities have passed resolutions asking for the federal and state government to create independent studies as to the effects of 5G on the health of the population. These resolutions have been sent to the federal and state governments and the legislators but there had not been any response. He knew that Birmingham and some of the school districts were monitoring this very actively because they are concerned.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were none.

BOARD COMMENTS

McLain looks forward to safely seeing each other and getting back to normal, but it may be awhile for that to happen. She related a personal note about her daughter, an ER physician starting her residency in L.A.

She thanked everyone for participating during these trying times. Stay Safe.

There would not be a PEG Committee meeting after this meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:49 AM.