

BIRMINGHAM AREA CABLE BOARD MEETING MINUTES – NOVEMBER 18, 2020

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

Absent: None

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

McLain, called the meeting to order at 7:47 AM via Remote Zoom.us with closed captioning. Each member identified his/her present location, as indicated above.

APPROVE MINUTES OF CABLE BOARD MEETING HELD October 21, 2020.

Motion by Burry, seconded by Eick to approve the minutes of the Cable Board meeting on October 21, 2020, as presented.

Roll Call Vote

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

Motion Passed. (10-0).

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments at this time.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Cable Action Committee

Abraham reported there had not been a meeting this past week as there was nothing to discuss. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 3 at 4:30 PM. on Zoom. McLain stated the final Audit draft has come out. The Treasurer, White and she would be discussing it today. She would like to discuss it with the entire Committee on December 3 as the Auditors would be coming to the Cable Board December Meeting to present the report. White will email a copy of the Audit to each Board member prior to the December 3 meeting. She and Fenberg added that they have been in contact with Spencer Tawa, CPE Engagement Manager, Plante Moran about some changes.

PEG Committee

Mydloski stated there had not been a meeting last month; however, there will be one immediately following this one. Meetings will be held on a need basis and will follow the BACB meetings.

McLain noted that the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) has suspended in-person school and fall and winter sports due to COVID-19. Because of the cancellations or re-scheduling, BACB will probably be getting back some of its funding for the sporting events.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

White referred to her monthly report dated November 12, 2020. Last month’s pending complaint from a Bingham Farms resident was resolved. It concerned a low-hanging Comcast cable attached to his house which had been hit by a truck for the third (3rd) time. It has now been raised. This complaint is now closed.

There were four (4) complaints since her last report. The first (1st) was from an elderly Franklin resident who was having problems with the cable properly working on her TVs. A member of the Comcast escalation team contacted her and the problem was resolved. BACB received a phone call from the resident expressing her appreciation for BACB’s help with this matter. This complaint is closed. The second (2nd) complaint came from a Beverly Hills resident who reported that after a new cable had been installed on a pole adjacent to his property, trees were trimmed as part of the work and tree branches and debris were left on his property. The homeowner was not sure which provider was responsible. Detroit Edison resolved the problem. Comcast, WOW, and AT&T were not involved. This complaint is now closed. The third (3rd) complaint came from a Franklin resident who wanted to receive a free pay channel that Comcast was offering during the early months of the pandemic; however, he needed a new box. Because he had some health issues, he would not allow a technician into his house. A Comcast technician who was outside the home instructed the resident on how to install the box. Unfortunately, the fitting connection to his TV broke in the process and damaged the TV. The resident was requesting that Comcast or its insurance carrier (Liberty Mutual) provide him with a new TV. This complaint has been resolved. White recently received a fourth (4th) complaint which was the result of the outage due to the wind. Comcast was involved. Because the complaint came after she had drafted her report, she will report on it next month. White mentioned that BACB had received a compliment on the website from a resident who was only identified by his/her email address. It was a thank you for recording government and school meetings during the pandemic as he/she greatly values viewing such meetings.

FINANCIAL

Financial information for MBS, BBCU and Beverly Hills accounts as of October 31, 2020 will be emailed to the Board Members, in addition to the BACB financial reports for October 2020.

White answered McLain’s question about the financial reports as to the reason the revenues for two (2) (Bingham Farms and Beverly Hills) out of the four (4) communities were not included. The BACB Board gets the last month’s activities and not every provider remits revenue to every

community each month. Therefore, the revenue shows zero. McLain was curious as to the guidelines as to when they needed to be received. Currier will check. Fenberg confirmed that revenue should be received within sixty (60) days for the purposes of the financial statements. White added that if received after sixty (60) days the Auditors consider it “deferred revenue” for the next year.

White wrote two (2) checks to Beverly Hills for the Municipal Support Services grants and one check to Clearview Captioning which does the closed captioning of the BACB meeting.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

BACB received thank you notes from the Beverly Hills Director of Public Safety and the Executive Director of NEXT for the grants they had received.

The Audit will be presented virtually at the December 16, 2020 meeting. She thanked Fenberg, Rota, Currier and McLain for their assistance.

PROVIDER RELATED TOPICS

a. Comcast

There was no representative present and no new information received.

White commented that Comcast had indicated that depending on the monies it would be receiving it would be giving courtesy adjustments to subscribers for the cancelled sports programming. She personally had a credit on her Comcast cable bill in FL. Abraham noted that the funds varied by community as to how much the Regional Sports Network refunded to Comcast. His refund in Birmingham was different from White’s.

For more information go to: Xfinity.com/sportsadjustments.

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.

McLain stated there are WOW representatives wearing IDs going door-to-door in our four (4) communities, hanging tags on doors. If a resident agrees to anything, please make sure he/she understands it and receives a confirmation.

BAPA/BAMA REPORT

Greg Black referred to Rota’s November 12, 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 Board meeting, Bingham Farms Council Meeting, the Baldwin Public Library Board meeting and a Special Library Board meeting.

For the **BAPA** Programs, the producers and organizations completed 25 programs, all of which he listed. From BACB area organizations, Daughters of the American Revolution “2020 Veterans Day Wreath Laying Ceremony”, a yearly event was taped.

PRODUCER WORKSHOP

Regarding the Producer Workshops, most of the productions are via Zoom, so there aren't many opportunities to produce or have behind the scenes experience. However, for those interested in the future when it is safe, please call 248-433-7790 or email him:

GBlack@BloomfieldTWB.org. He advised those producers who may have a program proposal to submit it as soon as possible. The staff is willing to adjust the normal workshop process in order to safely produce the program in the studio or work through Zoom.

STUDIO UPDATE

Due to the most recent government orders for the next three (3) weeks, all studio productions will be done through Zoom to ensure the safety of all involved. The exception would be public meetings which might require someone to be there in person.

BCTV UPDATE

General Manager and Communication Director for Bloomfield Township, Greg Kowalski, retired in September. Currently, Black would be assuming Kowalski's responsibilities. Kowalski's replacement has not been announced; however, this was a position Black has been striving towards. He will keep everyone apprised of the situation.

McLain inquired if the November election in Bloomfield Township had any effect on how BCTV would function. Black saw no changes in the future. The Township does have a new Supervisor, a new Clerk, the Treasurer will stay the same, two (2) new members of the Board of Trustees were elected, and the decision who would replace Kowalski would be up to Supervisor Walsh. McLain stated she would like Walsh to attend and be introduced at the next BACB meeting. Black will follow through with this request.

Tomorrow McLain and Black will be attending the virtual Michigan NATOA Board and Membership meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS.

McLain stated a new member from Bingham Farms, Lisa Blackburn, will be joining the Board and would be at the next meeting. She thanked Mel Ettenson, former longest running member of the Cable Board, who supported his replacement. Beverly Hills will be looking for a replacement for Jim Delaney, as well.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were none.

BOARD COMMENTS

Jim Delaney thanked and complimented the Cable Board for being an interested, informed and dedicated group of people. He is very impressed with how these meetings have been held. He thought that this Board functioned at a much higher level than other Boards and did an excellent job. He complimented McLain, White and the rest of the Board Members and stated he had enjoyed his time on the Board. One regret he had involved a former Board Member from Beverly Hills, whose demeanor, he felt, had not been appropriate. He related all the details and noted that had he been present he would have brought this to the attention of the Village Manager and Council President because Beverly Hills demands a higher standard for the people it puts on its various boards. He thanked Currier for answers to all his questions about the pending litigation. He ended his remarks by sharing his future plan which was to return to his involvement with the organizations which help disabled individuals.

McLain thanked Delaney for his involvement with the Cable Board. He would be welcomed back to the Board any time. She continued by thanking Beverly Hills' involvement, including its participation in the management of some of the BACB funds. On a personal note, she acknowledged the importance and the need for help with the challenged and disabled population and need a voice like Delaney's.

Currier also thanked Delaney for his participation with the Cable Board and regretfully informed the Board of the passing of Don Gillis who had been instrumental in creating the Birmingham Cable Board and was very active in the communications authority.

Mydloski, who filled Mira Stakhiv's position, informed the Board that Franklin had appointed her for another term. She also thanked Delaney and wished him well in his new quest.

McLain reminded Members that there would be a short PEG meeting following this one.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:21 AM.