

BIRMINGHAM AREA CABLE BOARD MEETING MINUTES – May 19, 2021

McLain, called the meeting to order at 7:45 AM via Remote Zoom.us with closed captioning.

Present: Fenberg (Birmingham, MI), McLain (Birmingham, MI), Cleary (Charlottesville, VA), Eick (Birmingham, MI), Shand (Birmingham, MI), Abraham (Birmingham, MI) – Birmingham  
Henry (Beverly Hills, MI) Gugni (Beverly Hills, MI), Kamoo (Beverly Hills, MI), Tootell – arrived at 7:52 AM (Beverly Hills, MI)– Beverly Hills  
Blackburn (Bingham Farms, MI) – Bingham Farms  
Mydloski (Franklin, MI)

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

**APPROVE MINUTES OF CABLE BOARD MEETING HELD April 28, 2021**

Motion by Fenberg, seconded by Eick approve the minutes of the Cable Board meeting on April 28, 2021, as presented.

Roll Call Vote

Blackburn Aye  
Shand Aye  
Henry Aye  
McLain Aye  
Abraham Aye  
Fenberg Aye  
Gugni Aye  
Kamoo Aye  
Mydloski Aye  
Eick Aye  
Cleary Aye  
Tootell Aye

Motion Passed.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments at this time.

**PEG GRANT REQUEST – FRANKLIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Mydloski, representative from Franklin and Village of Franklin Clerk, reported that the Franklin Historical Society was requesting a continuation of funding of a one-year internet subscription from Comcast for the Franklin Historical Museum costing \$93.65 per month or \$1,123.80 annually. This would allow the museum personnel on-site internet access to facilitate current and future projects. This request has been granted in the past and the amount is consistent.

Motion by Abraham, seconded by Shand to approve a PEG Grant request in the amount not to exceed \$1,123.80 annually or \$93.65 per month to the Franklin

Historical Society for the cost of the internet service at the Franklin Historical Museum for FY 2021-2022.

Roll Call Vote

Shand Aye  
Henry Aye  
McLain Aye  
Abraham Aye  
Fenberg Aye  
Gugni Aye  
Kamoo Aye  
Mydloski Aye  
Eick Aye  
Cleary Aye  
Blackburn Aye  
Tootell Aye

Motion Passed.

**PEG GRANT REQUEST – VILLAGE OF FRANKLIN**

White confirmed this was discussed in last month's PEG committee meeting.

Mydloski stated this was a request to improve the level of communication between Village Officials, Village committees and the public. At the present, BCTV only records the monthly Village Council meetings, and the Village Administrator is requesting additional filming of three (3) additional meetings per month (Historic District Commission, Planning Commission and the Zoning/Sign Board of Appeals). White clarified that BCTV is able to record virtual meetings at no cost; however, when the meetings become "in-person" the Village would come back to BACB to request a particular amount for such a service.

McLain called for a motion which would not have an amount attached as it is a "process-oriented granted motion" to prepare for future in-person municipal meetings which have been affected by COVID-19.

Motion by Fenberg, seconded by Shand to approve the Village of Franklin's request to record three (3) additional monthly meetings for the Historic District Commission, Planning Commission and the Zoning/Sign Board of Appeals.

Roll Call Vote

Henry Aye  
McLain Aye  
Abraham Aye  
Fenberg Aye  
Gugni Aye  
Kamoo Aye

Mydloski Aye  
Eick Aye  
Cleary Aye  
Blackburn Aye  
Shand Aye  
Tootell Aye

Motion Passed.

### **PROPOSED FY 2021-22 BACB BUDGET**

White pointed out those areas which she had adjusted from the current budget. She was not looking for a motion at this meeting but rather wanted to present the information for the Board's understanding. After a discussion about the budget at the next CAC meeting, it will be brought to the next BACB meeting for an approval vote.

For the new members, White reviewed some of the categories and clarified some line-by-line expenses under **Board Expenses**. Under **PEG Operations**, Fenberg explained the purpose of the category, "Grants".

McLain talked about BACB's acknowledgement of the future and the planning for it.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **Cable Action Committee**

Abraham reported there had been a meeting on Thursday, May 13, 2021: attendees were McLain, White, Blackburn, Cleary, Fenberg, Tootell and himself. There was a discussion about utilizing social media to further increase communication flow for the four (4) communities. McLain spoke with several community managers and clerks about the importance of social media, including web sites. Constructive feedback from the residents is important and needs to be informative. During the CAC meeting White showed the committee the same budget which had just been discussed. Following Fenberg's suggestion from the last BACB meeting, Abraham wrote several sentences highlighting important items from previous BACB's meeting minutes and shared it with the Board members. He suggested that such a report could be put on the front page of the BACB website and sent to the communities.

The next CAC meeting will be a Zoom meeting, Thursday, June 3 at 4:30 PM. McLain reminded the new members of the Board that all meetings were open to anyone. McLain thanked Abraham for his suggestions on how to do more outreach. She also had some suggestions.

McLain emphasized that the Cable Board was an independent entity and would provide the facts about certain issues but further action would be handled within the individual communities.

There was a brief discussion about "live captioning" of meetings versus an "automatic captioning" system.

**PEG Committee**

There will be a PEG meeting following this meeting. Tootell reported that the Beverly Hills Music in the Park on Friday, June 4 will be recorded. She provided all the details about location but was unsure of the exact time. She also noted that attendees would be wearing the color orange in recognition and support of anti-gun violence.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

White referred to her monthly report dated May 12, 2021. One complaint from last month that involved a Comcast wire in a Birmingham resident’s back yard has been resolved. There were two (2) new complaints since her last report. The first (1<sup>st</sup>) was from a Birmingham resident who previously had a complaint about data overage fees. This new complaint was a follow up. Even though Comcast had agreed to waive the installation fee for the new modem, the resident’s bill did not reflect it. An executive care representative has now credited his account. This complaint is closed. This same resident now has other issues which have been submitted back to Comcast. The second (2<sup>nd</sup>) complaint was from a Franklin resident who had contacted Comcast about putting her phone service on “seasonal hold” as she would be out of town. This was not done and she was unable to get Comcast to adjust her bill. An escalation team representative contacted the resident, and her account has been credited. This complaint is closed.

**FINANCIAL**

Financial information for MBS, BBCU and Beverly Hills accounts as of April 30, 2021 was emailed to the Board Members, as well as BACB financial reports for April, 2021.

White wrote four (4) checks since the last meeting; the largest one was to the Birmingham Bloomfield Credit Union for BACB’s Visa bill for insurance, telephone and office expenses.

**ADDITIONAL NOTES**

Comcast notified BACB of the implementation of the Federal Government’s Emergency Broadband Benefit Program which she had previously explained. Mazurek, Comcast representative, would further expound on this subject.

**PROVIDER RELATED TOPICS**

**a. Comcast**

Mazurek wanted to make sure BACB was aware of the FCC Emergency Broadband Benefit Program which opened up on May 12. It will be a \$50/month subsidy providing assistance to eligible households. This is geared to low-income families. More information can be found on the FCC website, [getemergencybroadband.org](http://getemergencybroadband.org) or on Comcast’s website [Xfinity.com/EBB](http://Xfinity.com/EBB). He also provided information that Comcast’s access to 10 Gigs may be in the near future as test trials are ongoing. The company is now at 6 Gigs.

McLean mentioned that Comcast had already buried its upgraded lines underground in the rights-of-ways. She also complimented Mazurek for his quarterly visits to the BACB meetings, the quick responses of the Comcast escalation team to the public and emphasized that BACB members do not receive special attention when personally dealing with the Providers. She provided information for the public that there is a difference between broadband, cable

connection and cell service and that the Cable Board only deals with the cable part of a resident's bill.

**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 received a "door hanger" from WOW. The company was going door-to-door advertising its service in hopes of expanding its area footprint.

She reminded residents to carefully check their bills as well as making sure their equipment was updated and in good working condition.

**BAPA/BAMA REPORT**

Rota referred to his memo to BACB dated May 13, 2021. He listed the completed **BAMA** regularly scheduled municipal meetings: the BACB Meeting, Parks and Rec Board Meeting, Advisory Parking Committee Meeting, Zoning Board Meeting, the Multi-Modal Board Meeting, Bingham Farms Council Meeting and the Baldwin Public Library Board Meeting.

For the **BAPA** Programs, 14 programs by producers and organizations (which he identified) were taped via Zoom. He listed the high school sporting events which were covered via Zoom.

Rota has been notified that the parades in Birmingham and Beverly Hills and the Concerts in the Park have been cancelled. Instead, reruns will be scheduled, including a Beverly Hills Memorial Day Parade marathon.

**PRODUCER WORKSHOP**

Since the studio is closed, for those interested in producing a program or want to volunteer behind the scenes, please call the office at 248-433-7790 to set up a future time and date.

**STUDIO UPDATE**

For new Board members, give the office a call to schedule a future date and time for a studio tour. The Board will be notified when the studio will reopen for in-person programing.

**MEMORIAL DAY**

Since the parade and carnival in Beverly Hills have been cancelled, there will be a marathon of the Village of Beverly Hills Memorial Day Parades and Carnivals (2011-2019), starting at 9 AM.

The Beverly Hills Concert will be on Friday, June 4 at 7 PM. and will be videotaped for re-broadcast at a later date.

Rota shared the good news that Greg Black became a DAD yesterday evening. He and Ellen are proud parents of Benjamin and all are doing well. CONGRATULATIONS!

**OLD BUSINESS**

White acknowledged that she missed Kathleen Tootell's attendance at the meeting and her votes in the Roll Call. White asked her to verify that her votes would be "Aye". Tootell stated she approved of everything that had been discussed and voted on and acknowledged she was located in Beverly Hills, MI.

**NEW BUSINESS.**

McLain shared the different monikers of the various state NATOA organizations. Some groups are very large and are active in legislation and others are observant. She believes MI NATOA is in the middle with passionate people who have made a difference in local regulations in terms of cable. MI NATOA has been approached and is considering merging with a smaller organization that is also involved in cable advocacy. The existing MI NATOA members would be consulted on a new name. She believes it is necessary for the smaller organizations to merge in order to make a bigger influence on those in higher positions.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were none.

**BOARD COMMENTS**

McLain advised motorists to be careful of motorcyclists and please watch for pedestrians walking.

There will be a PEG meeting following this meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 AM.