

BIRMINGHAM AREA CABLE BOARD MEETING MINUTES – June 16 2021

McLain, called the last meeting of Fiscal Year 2020-2021 to order at 7:45 AM via Remote Zoom.us with closed captioning.

Present: McLain (Birmingham, MI), Cleary (Birmingham, MI), Eick (Birmingham, MI), Abraham (Birmingham, MI) – Birmingham
Henry (Beverly Hills, MI), Tootell (Beverly Hills, MI)– Beverly Hills
Blackburn (Bingham Farms, MI) – Bingham Farms
Mydloski (Franklin, MI) - Franklin
Absent: Fenberg, Gugni, Shand, Kamoo
Also Present: White - BACB Executive Director
Gojcaj – Attorney for Cable Board
Rota – Bloomfield Community Television
Brunk – IT Manager, City of Birmingham

APPROVE MINUTES OF CABLE BOARD MEETING HELD May 19, 2021

Motion by Mydloski, seconded by Henry approve the minutes of the Cable Board meeting on May 19, 2021, as presented.

Roll Call Vote

McLain	Aye
Cleary	Aye
Eick	Aye
Henry	Aye
Blackburn	Aye
Mydloski	Aye
Abraham	Aye
Tootell	Aye

Motion Passed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments at this time.

TREASURER'S REPORT

In Fenberg's absence, White gave his Treasurer's report and stated there had not been any changes since his last report. The next maturity would be in July and those proceeds would be reinvested via MBS. She had sent the financial reports to the members which also included the MBS balance.

Yesterday McLain spoke with Chas Kipp, the Cable Board's investment advisor at MBS, to ask specific questions about the volatility of interest rates and how inflation would impact what the Cable Board does. He saw no impact on BACB and assured her that such activities were always monitored. She will ask him to come to the BACB's next meeting with an update and give his opinion on what he thinks the second half of the year will bring.

ANNUAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Michael Fenberg was nominated to continue as Treasurer of the Cable Board. White spoke with Fenberg and he agreed to continue in that position. There were no further nominations. McLain closed the nominations.

Roll Call Vote

Cleary Aye
Eick Aye
Henry Aye
Blackburn Aye
Mydloski Aye
Abraham Aye
Tootell Aye
McLain Aye

Fenberg was unanimously elected.

David Eick was nominated to continue as Secretary of the Cable Board. Eick agreed to continue in that position. There were no further nominations. McLain closed the nominations.

Roll Call Vote

Eick Aye
Henry Aye
Blackburn Aye
Mydloski Aye
Abraham Aye
Tootell Aye
McLain Aye
Cleary Aye

Eick was unanimously elected.

Gil Gugni was nominated to continue as Vice Chairman of the Cable Board. Gugni agreed to continue in that position. There were no further nominations. McLain closed the nominations.

Roll Call Vote

Henry Aye
Blackburn Aye
Mydloski Aye
Abraham Aye

Tootell Aye
McLain Aye
Cleary Aye
Eick Aye

Gugni was unanimously elected.

Elaine McLain was nominated to continue as Chairman of the Cable Board. There were no further nominations. McLain closed the nominations. McLain accepted the nomination.

Roll Call Vote

Blackburn Aye
Mydloski Aye
Abraham Aye
Tootell Aye
McLain Aye
Cleary Aye
Eick Aye
Henry Aye

McLain was unanimously elected.

McLain and White spoke with those members who had been appointed to Chairmen of the various Committees. All agreed to continue as such: George Abraham – Cable Action Committee Chairman; Gil Gugni – Personnel Committee Chairman; and Heather Mydloski – PEG Committee Chairman.

PROPOSED FY 2021-22 BACB BUDGET

Motion by Blackburn, seconded by Eick to approve the Birmingham Area Cable Board Budget for Fiscal Year 2021-2022, as presented.

McLain reminded the Board that the Budget had been discussed at several Cable Action Committee meetings and at a couple of full Board meetings. She invited any questions for White regarding any line items or input from the communities and/or members about the Cable Board mission.

White noted that as usual this was a very conservative budget knowing that a future decline in revenues was possible. In order to align with revenues, expenses have been reduced where appropriate. The budget which was presented to the board at last month's meeting had not changed. The Cable Board's fiscal year starts July 1, 2021.

Roll Call Vote

Mydloski Aye
Abraham Aye
Tootell Aye
McLain Aye
Cleary Aye
Eick Aye
Henry Aye
Blackburn Aye

Motion Passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Cable Action Committee

Abraham reported there had not been a meeting this month as there were no items to consider.

The next CAC meeting will be a Zoom meeting, July 1 at 4:00 PM. Attorney Gojcai commented that it was expected that the legislature would not extend the mandatory zoom meetings. Franklin had had its first in-person meeting a few days ago. A hybrid approach would be possible through the Open Meetings Act using the 6 feet distancing rule and due to the scheduling and the availability of the Board Members McLain was in favor of having the CAC meeting the 2nd week in July. Gojcai encouraged an in-person meeting.

PEG Committee

Mydloski reported the committee met on May 19 immediately following the BACB meeting. Joining her in attendance at the PEG meeting were McLain, White, Fenberg, Tootell, Cleary, Abraham and Rota. The Beverly Hills Music in the Park on Friday, June 4 was discussed as to how it met the PEG stipulations and how it was compliant with the policies and procedures. Tootell had positive comments about the filming of the concert which had excellent attendance and mentioned there would be another one in July. Paperwork requesting another filming will be sent to the Beverly Hills Clerk.

There will not be a PEG meeting following this meeting.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

White referred to her monthly report dated June 2021. There were two (2) new complaints since her last report. The first (1st) was a continuing complaint from a Birmingham resident who previously had a complaint about data overage fees and an installation fee from Comcast, all of which had been resolved. This new complaint involved service issues. Some of his equipment was replaced and he was satisfied. This complaint is closed. The second (2nd) complaint was from a Beverly Hills resident who wanted a large coil of cable removed from a utility pole across the street from his house. Not knowing whose cable it was, White sent the complaint to all three (3) cable providers. WOW promptly removed it. This complaint is closed.

FINANCIAL

Financial information for MBS, BBCU and Beverly Hills accounts for the month of May 2021 was emailed to the Board Members.

White wrote one (1) check since the last meeting for the PEG Grant to the Franklin Historical Society for its internet costs. This grant is consistent with previous years.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

Comcast notified BACB that it would not be broadcasting the traditional Newsy TV channel.

On June 3 she attended a webinar, presented by the Connecting Michigan Taskforce, which is a group of 13 different state agencies which better coordinate broadband activities within the state. The focus is on the 1.24 million Michigan households that do not have a fixed terrestrial broadband connection due to the lack of access or device, or service affordability. The federal efforts to address this problem were explained, some of which had been discussed by the BACB: Emergency Broadband Benefit program which was launched on May 12, NTIA Broadband Infrastructure Program, and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. There are three (3) programs within Michigan which address these issues: Connecting Michigan Communities Grant Program, Michigan Infrastructure Council's "Dig Once" Project Portal and Michigan High Speed Internet Office which was newly created in the Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity.

McLain suggested that some of this information be put on BACB's home page. She, personally, will share this information with the MI NATOA. She shared a personal interaction she had had with someone in the Michigan thumb area who described the exact lack of connectivity, including that in the basement of a hospital.

Following up on the comments from last month's meeting about better and increased communication flow among the communities, McLain noted that CAC would be working on a new system.

PROVIDER RELATED TOPICS

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.

McLain emphasized that the summer is a good time for residents to review and understand their cable bill. She also mentioned some of the common complaints which happen in the summer months: problems in the right of ways and downed cable lines, among others. She also listed the several rules of the franchise agreement which the cable providers have and must adhere to with

the four (4) communities. If residents are unable to resolve some issues with the providers, please contact the Cable Board.

BAPA/BAMA REPORT

Rota referred to his memo to BACB dated June 10, 2021. He listed the completed **BAMA** regularly scheduled municipal meetings. Franklin was the first to hold an in-person meeting this past Monday. It was a Village Council meeting at the Franklin Community Church. The meetings covered included the BACB Meeting, Baldwin Public Library Board and Trustee meeting, the Village of Bingham Farms meeting, the Beverly Hills Council meeting, the Village of Franklin Council meeting and its Board of Appeals and Planning Commission meetings, the City of Birmingham's Parks and Rec Board Meeting, Advisory Parking Committee meeting, Zoning Board meeting, the Multi-Modal Board meeting, Historic Board and Design Review Board Meetings.

For the **BAPA** Programs, 13 programs by producers and organizations (which he identified) were taped via Zoom. The Birmingham Republican Women's Club Lecture was in-person on location. The Beverly Hills Concert in the Park was very successful with the tri-caster multi-camera production. The next one will be Friday, July 16.

PRODUCER WORKSHOP

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

STUDIO UPDATE

Producers will begin in-person shows on Monday, July 12, 2021. At the end of the month Rota will begin recruiting volunteers and giving tours of the facility. Workshops for producers and volunteers will begin mid-July or early August. In-person meetings for the township will begin July 5. The hybrid meetings will begin in July.

MEETINGS TO MEET IN PERSON IN JULY

He will begin scheduling time and working with all four communities, testing equipment and setting everything up for the in-person meetings which will hopefully begin in July. Eric Brunk will be training him and some part-time staff on the coverage of the "hybrid meetings". He was in Beverly Hills testing equipment for hybrid meetings and experienced some technical problems. He is now working with Advanced Lighting and Sound on a resolution.

Mydloski thanked Rota for going above and beyond with personally helping with the technical difficulties experienced with the Franklin Village Council meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Rota thanked Brunk and his team for all their help throughout the pandemic.

McLain attended the Birmingham/Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce networking event on behalf of the Cable Board. The successful program was online and involved eight (8) different

Chambers from different municipalities and she was able to give them an in-depth introduction to BACB and its mission.

Abraham had a personal experience with an increase in his Comcast bill. After much discussion with a company representative, he was able to reduce it down to the original price. The increase was the result of a promotion having expired. This is a reminder to everyone to check their bill, making sure it is for the correct equipment and for the correct service. For those who do not receive a paper bill, check your bank statement or credit card bill.

McLain added how important and critical it is to be connected for health and safety reasons.

NEW BUSINESS

There was none.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were none.

BOARD COMMENTS

There were none.

McLain thanked Gojcaj for sitting in for Currier.

Next month's meeting will be in person.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:44 AM.