

BIRMINGHAM AREA CABLE BOARD MEETING MINUTES – September 16, 2020

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

Absent: McLain, Shand - Birmingham
 Burry – Beverly Hills

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

Gugni, Vice Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:45 AM via Remote Zoom.us meeting with closed captioning. He indicated that McLain was unable to attend this meeting.

APPROVE MINUTES OF CABLE BOARD MEETING HELD August 19, 2020.

Motion by Eick, seconded by Fenberg to approve the minutes of the Cable Board meeting on August 19, 2020, as presented.

Motion Passed. (7-0).

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments at this time.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Cable Action Committee

Abraham reported there had not been a meeting in September as there was nothing to discuss. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 1 at 4:30 P.M.

PEG Committee

Mydloski reported there had not been a meeting last month.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

White referred to her monthly report dated September 8, 2020. A complaint from last month involving an elderly Beverly Hills resident wanting to lower her cable bill has been resolved. An escalation team member had contacted her, reviewed her viewing habits, and recommended the best available pricing. In addition the resident would be returning two (2) TV boxes which will reduce her monthly bill by \$10 per month.

There were four (4) complaints last month. A Beverly Hills resident was trying to get a new Comcast account since her husband had died. Her cable service was working but not her internet service. An escalation team member determined that the issue was with receiving email. She updated her password which resolved the problem. The complaint is closed. The second complaint was from a Birmingham resident who wanted AT&T to move a cable which had been buried in his landscape bed and instead place it along the fence line which was where he had been told it would be placed. AT&T gave him options to consider and the resident was to make a decision. This complaint is closed. The third complaint was from a Beverly Hills resident who

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had a Comcast cable line laying in water on the ground in his yard. Comcast resolved the issue. This complaint is closed.

The fourth complaint was from a Franklin resident who was dealing with a power outage. When power was restored she did not have her Comcast cable or phone service. Comcast was able to restore her cable service. This complaint is closed.

FINANCIAL

Financial information for MBS, BBCU and Beverly Hills accounts as of the end of August was emailed to all Board members.

Since the last Board meeting White has written six (6) checks on behalf of the BACB. The biggest ones were to Birmingham Public Schools for the PEG Grant- Evergreen Room Upgrade and to NEXT for the PEG Grant – internet, cable and registration software.

Additional Notes

AT&T submitted its 13th Annual Video Report to the Michigan Public Service Commission. She summarized what had been in the Report for the Board members. The U-verse TV service is now provided in 341 Michigan communities. In March it was announced that requests for the U-verse TV orders would no longer be accepted; however, this would not impact existing U-verse customer service. It was noted that AT&T has invested more than \$1.5 billion in Michigan wireless and wireline networks from 2017-2019.

Comcast notified BACB of channel changes, effective October 27, 2020: StarzEncore, StarzEncore Western, StrazEncore Black and StarzEncore Action would only be available with a subscription to Starz. They would not be part of the digital preferred package and MoviePlex would no longer be available. A Zona Football HD channel was being added; however, it would only be available when there were soccer games to broadcast.

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.

BAPA/BAMA REPORT

Rota referred to his August 20, 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 and the Baldwin Public Library Board meeting.

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For the **BAPA** Programs, the producers have used Zoom to complete 18 programs, all of which he listed. Hopefully, by October 1, the studio will be open for those residents who feel comfortable to record their shows. For those who do not, Zoom will be used. As usual, please call (248) 433-7790 if interested in doing a volunteer workshop or to produce a show.

MHSAA has allowed the fall sports program to continue this year. Four (4) sporting events have been scheduled: Soccer on Oct. 8, Football on Oct. 9, Swim & Dive on Oct. 15 and Volleyball on Oct. 20.

Last month the Board approved the filming of up to eight (8) sporting events. An additional four (4) might be covered so residents could view their children play, as there is a limit as to the number of spectators allowed into the stadium. There may be a possibility that more might be added. BCTV would have to speak with the Athletic Directors, keeping in mind that eight (8) events would be the limit.

Mydloski questioned if there is a request for more than the eight (8) events could Rota bring that request back to the BACB? Rota answered in the affirmative; however, eight (8) was manageable. The average was eight (8) to ten (10) per season.

Eick was at the Girls' Swim and Dive parents' meeting last night. He was encouraged that Rota might consider more events since the parents can't attend the meets, only volunteers. He would appreciate anything Rota can do. Rota advised that those sporting events that are covered will not be "live", but rebroadcast. He suggested that a parent film the event through Facebook Live or on YouTube. He has been thinking about other possibilities.

White questioned if he had been able to use the upgraded Tri-Caster that the Board authorized at last month's meeting? He has not but Brunk said he has used it about 6 times so far; more for supporting techs than running it from home which has been helpful. He thanked the Board for approving the purchase.

OLD BUSINESS

Mydolski thanked Abraham for making the graph of grants for the different communities. She is also working on making a graph and putting them together.

NEW BUSINESS.

White has been in contact with BACB's Auditor and the process has changed due to not being able to meet with them in person. It is anticipated that this process would take place on Oct. 6 and Oct. 7. At the end of the year or in January the Auditors will present the report.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were none.

BOARD COMMENTS

Henry reported that last Wednesday there had been a lot of flooding in the old building of Beverly Hills and everyone wanted to get to the Council meeting. Unfortunately, the Zoom was

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very difficult. He directed them to the BACB BAMA website and everyone had a wonderful HD quality experience. He congratulated Rota. With that in mind, maybe something could be figured out to provide live sporting events. Parents might want to see their children, if not live, then the next day. Eick agreed. Having high school announcers would be great.

Motion by Henry and Eick to adjourn the meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:02 AM.