

Present: Correa, Frishman, Hirsch - Birmingham
Borgon, Delaney, Pinkos, Woodard – Beverly Hills
Ettenson – Bingham Farms

Absent: Hollinshead - Birmingham
Gallasch – Franklin

Also Present: Hagaman - Executive Director
Currier - Attorney for Cable Board
Gillis – Bloomfield Community Television representative
Martinico - Director of Technology, Birmingham Schools
Beller - Comcast representative
Pfeifer – Beverly Hills Council liaison

Borgon called the meeting to order at 7:45 a.m. in the Village of Beverly Hills municipal building at 18500 W. Thirteen Mile Road.

APPROVE MINUTES

Motion by Ettenson, second by Woodard, that the minutes of a regular Cable Board meeting held on July 21, 2004 be approved as submitted.

Motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PEG Committee

There are three new members on the PEG Committee. Hagaman stated that the PEG Committee will be meeting to discuss the estimated cost for the production of the second segment of the Rouge River series. The committee will present a report and recommendation for the BACB contribution to this program.

Cable Review and Liaison Committee

Hirsch reported that his committee met on July 28 to review the action plan it has been developing in recent months. The first item discussed was identification of community residents who might wish to write to Congress and the FCC about spiraling cable rates. Residents who have contacted the Board in the last two years about Comcast rate increases are being encouraged to contact officials in Washington pointing out that there is no government control of cable rates.

A news release about the Board's initiative to help dissatisfied cable television subscribers raise their voices about cable rates has generated stories on the front pages of both the Birmingham Eccentric and the Birmingham-Bloomfield Eagle newspapers last week. It is anticipated that the Cable Board will continue to develop newsworthy material in the weeks and months ahead.

On the subject of generating letters from the public to officials in Washington, the committee is considering other target audiences to join that effort such as senior citizens

groups, neighborhood associations, service organizations, and individual elected officials in the four communities. It is hoped to interest other community governments in the area to prepare the kind of cable pricing resolution that was issued recently by Bingham Farms, Beverly Hills, Birmingham and Franklin.

Hirsch stated that the name of the committee will be changed from the 'Cable Review and Liaison Committee' to 'Cable Action Committee'.

COMCAST RELATED TOPICS

Subscriber Complaints

Board members are in receipt of written resolutions to last month's complaints, which were delayed due to Comcast vacation schedules.

Hagaman reported that Mrs. Muenchausen called the cable office to thank the Board for its help with handling her complaint quickly. Subscriber issues are often resolved promptly after the subscriber calls the cable office. Hagaman suggested that Comcast work on improved communication between its service representatives and subscribers.

Hagaman related that a subscriber complained about what was viewed as an offensive Comcast advertisement. Comcast is taking this complaint seriously and investigating the content of the advertisement and will provide a response to the Board.

Hagaman asked that cable subscribers who report a complaint return calls from Comcast in order to expedite resolution of the issue.

Delaney commented on the poor quality of the TV Guide channel. Ettenson made a general comment on Comcast responses asking that complaints not be addressed offhandedly.

Monthly Subscriber Statistics

There were comments on the new format of the Comcast system statistics.

Other Issues

Beller informed the Board that Michael Brady is the new VP of Government and Regulatory Affairs for the Michigan region. The Board will have the opportunity to meet him at an upcoming meeting.

Beller summarized a report outlining Comcast activities in the area. Comcast in conjunction with Partnership for a Drug-Free America and the Prevention Coalition of Southeastern Michigan has developed a plan for an upcoming Comcast/PDFA Detroit Town Hall meeting. The objective of the program is to build awareness of the importance of communications between parents and children regarding the dangers and potential impact of substance abuse in local communities.

Beller announced that on October 2, 2004 hundreds of local Comcast employee volunteers and their families will participate in the company's fourth annual national day

of service called Comcast Cares Day. Volunteers partner with local organizations on projects to benefit the communities the company serves across the country. The Birmingham Area Seniors Coordinating Council and Center will be one of 20 sites in southeast Michigan served by this program. Comcast will purchase the necessary supplies, and volunteers will paint interiors in the senior center.

Comcast is partnering with Hawthorne Appliance in Woodward in Royal Oak during the Dream Cruise on Saturday, August 21 to set up a large product display on that day.

Beller reported on Comcast's launch of the NFL Network, introduction of a Video Mail feature, and increased speed for Comcast High-Speed Internet. Questions on the higher speed tier were answered by Beller. In answer to an inquiry, Beller stated that Comcast is in a transition period of rolling out the new TV guide channel.

As a member of the BASCC Board, Pfeifer thanked Comcast for the work it has done for the BASCC center.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Hagaman stated that Plante & Moran has completed its field work on the annual audit. A presentation of the audit report will be scheduled for the October Board meeting.

The City of Birmingham is appealing to residents who may wish to join the Cable Board to contact the Clerk's office. There are currently three Birmingham vacancies on the Board.

Hagaman and Frishman will attend the annual NATOA Conference from September 15-18. Due to the conference, current vacancies on the Board, and possible member absences on September 15, it was suggested that the September meeting be moved to September 22.

Motion by Ettenson, second by Woodard, to change the date of the September Cable Board meeting from September 15 to September 22, 2004.

Motion passed.

Hagaman has distributed copies of the Birmingham Area Cable Board Annual Report for 2003/04 and provided a synopsis of the material covered in the report. The Board will take action on the Annual Report at its next meeting.

MLTV15/PA18 REPORT

Gillis reported that the July through August period was busy for BCTV. They completed the production of seven regularly scheduled municipal meetings, one Birmingham joint session special meeting shot at the DPS building, a BACB meeting, and ten concerts for the consortium communities. The SOCRRA recycling program is in its final editing stage and will begin to air soon.

Steve Rota produced a short music video highlighting the dogs of downtown Birmingham. Stage lights have been obtained for the last two “In the Park” concerts in September, which BCTV plans to videotape.

BCTV completed a total of 18 programs on PA 18 for this time period. Of this total, BACB residents produced three programs.

BCTV staff met with members of consulting engineering firm Hubbell, Roth and Clark to firm up details and direction for the next segment of the Rouge River series. It is hoped that the finished product can be delivered by November. The segment will focus on the wildlife that lives in and around the Rouge watershed and the Quarton Lake Project and its impact on the watershed.

Gillis will be submitting a proposal to the Board for doing preventative maintenance on the production van as well as suggesting improvements to the truck. Board members questioned the status of a winter storage location for the production van. The PEG Committee was asked to follow up on this concern.

BOARD COMMENTS

In answer to an inquiry, Currier stated that members appointed to represent the city of Birmingham on the Cable Board currently have to be residents of Birmingham. He has suggested to the City Manager and Clerk that an ordinance change to allow the appointment of Birmingham employees to the Cable Board may be appropriate if the positions are not filled soon.

CLOSED SESSION

Motion by Ettenson, second by Delaney, to go into closed session to discuss confidential attorney/client privileged opinion exempt from disclosure.

Roll Call Vote:

Motion passed unanimously.

Members of the Board, Hagaman, and Council liaison Pfeifer met in closed session with Attorney Currier at 8:46 a.m. and reconvened in open session at 8:59 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 a.m.

THESE MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL. THEY HAVE NOT BEEN APPROVED BY THE CABLE BOARD.