

Present: Heldt, Kelly, McLain, Thorsby - Birmingham
Burry, Heyman, McFadden, Pfeifer – Beverly Hills
Ettenson – Bingham Farms
Eads – Franklin

Absent: Armitage, Lurie - Birmingham
Verdi-Hus – Beverly Hills

Also Present: Borgon – Executive Director
Currier - Attorney for Cable Board
Rota - Bloomfield Community Television representative
Dr. Hoffman - Birmingham Schools representative
Valentine - Birmingham staff representative

Chairperson McLain 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 OF CABLE BOARD MEETING HELD AUGUST 17, 2011

The correction was made on page 2, paragraph 2, line 4, to add ‘representative’ after ‘Board’.

Borgon referred to the second paragraph on page 4 under the heading “Personnel Committee”, where Ettenson mentioned that the Executive Director performance evaluation included input from providers. Borgon noted that two of the providers informed him that they did not participate in that evaluation. Ettenson explained that contact with the providers is in progress.

Motion by Heldt, second by Eads, that the minutes of a regular Cable Board meeting held on August 17, 2011 be approved as amended.

Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Cable Action Committee

McFadden reported that the Cable Action Committee discussed items at its last meeting including identification and business cards for the Board and the process of rebranding the production truck to more accurately reflect the three different providers and provide better information to subscribers. Another topic was the Board’s presence at the Farmers Market.

Borgon related that Alan Heyman and he represented the Board at the Farmers Market on Sunday, September 18. They staffed the BACB booth and taped a program for the Principle Shopping District in Birmingham. The Farmers Market was well attended on the day of the Harvest Festival.

Pfeifer provided Committee members with a working outline for a Cable Board grant policy. The subcommittee working on this project consists of Pfeifer as chairperson, Thorsby, McFadden, Borgon and McLain.

The next scheduled meeting of the CAC will be Thursday, October 6 at 5:30 p.m. at the Baldwin Public Library.

PEG Committee

The Board has been presented with a request from Birmingham Public Schools to broadcast three athletic competitions between Groves and Seaholm High Schools. The events are as follows: Girls Swim and Dive on October 18; Boys Water Polo on October 19; and Boy's Football on October 21. The cost submitted by Bloomfield Community Television to produce and broadcast these events is \$2,500 each, which is the same price charged last year.

Motion by Heldt, second by Eads, that the Birmingham Area Cable Board approve an expenditure not to exceed \$7,500 to broadcast three athletic events between Groves and Seaholm High Schools in October of 2011.

Roll Call Vote:

Motion passed (10 – 0).

Heldt stated that there was a meeting of all parties involved under the leadership of Dr. Hoffman to prepare for a successful athletic broadcasting season. Hoffman added that he appreciated the partnership between Birmingham Public Schools and the Cable Board.

Personnel Committee

Ettenson stated that the Personnel Committee is in the process of receiving input from the providers to add to the Executive Director evaluation report. He added that there remains one open position on the Cable Board for a City of Birmingham representative.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Borgon related that there were no new subscriber complaints this month. The monthly financial reports have been distributed to the Board. An update from American Community Television was provided to Board members. ACT has been visiting Senate offices to keep the CAP Act on the front burner.

The quarterly lunch meeting with BCTV staff is scheduled for Thursday, September 29 at 12 p.m. at the Bloomfield Community Television studio. Board members are welcomed to attend. The BCTV website is in the process of being updated to include the new BAPA and BAMA logos.

NATOA has announced that it will be live streaming two keynote sessions during the 2011 Annual Conference as follows: Keynote presentation by Commissioner Mignon Clyburn, Federal Communications Commission on Wednesday, September 21 at 1:00 p.m. PDT; Closing Keynote presentation by Google Vice President Milo Medin on Friday, September 23 at 1 p.m. PDT.

Borgon is in receipt of the signed BCTV contract, and the document has been filed. In answer to an inquiry, Borgon stated that presentation of the Cable Board audit report by Plante & Moran is scheduled for November.

PROVIDER RELATED TOPICS

There were no provider representatives present at today's meeting.

AT&T

Rota outlined ongoing issues with the AT&T encoder and efforts to keep BAPA and BAMA channels on the air. BCTV cannot determine the exact cause of the problem. Staff has attempted to get AT&T people to their facility to examine the equipment; AT&T is not responding to those requests.

Board members were eager to find a solution to this continuing problem. The encoder was purchased from ID Solutions at AT&T's recommendation. New encoders that were installed only functioned for a short time.

Thorsby suggested that AT&T has an obligation to troubleshoot the problem as a courtesy if the equipment is not working and their service is inconsistent. If AT&T does not solve the problem, the Board should consider an alternative technology that does work.

Heldt proposed that the Board do some research to determine whether surrounding communities or school districts have the same problems with their U-verse product and explore how their systems operate. This would broaden the Board's source of information as to what works.

Ettenson suggested that the Board communicate with the AT&T representative to the Cable Board regarding this matter and ask why he has not been in attendance at monthly meetings. Eads expressed the view that resolving this service issue should be a top priority of the Board.

Borgon will follow up with contacting other communities through Michigan NATOA to determine their experience with receiving PEG channels on the AT&T product.

WOW

McLain reported on an informal complaint from a resident regarding solicitation from WOW at their residence despite the posting of a "no solicitation" sign on their property.

Borgon commented on a price increase from WOW effective October 18. The installation and technician fees are increasing by 25 percent. The reason given for this increase was operational expenses including fuel. Other fees are increasing by one cent.

BAMA/BAPA REPORT

Rota outlined the Bloomfield Community Television report on programming taped for Municipal Channel 15 (BAMA), PA Channel 18 (BAPA), and programming from BACB area organizations during the last month (information included in BCTV monthly report for August 18, 2011 – September 21, 2011).

The next volunteer camera workshop held at BCTV will be on October 5, 2011 at 6:30 p.m.

Heyman thanked Steve Rota, Zack Florance and two BCTV camera operator volunteers for doing a fantastic job at the Sunday, September 18 Farmers Market event.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

BOARD COMMENTS

Attorney Tim Currier announced that the Birmingham Ethics Board is holding a program to address the following topics: Open Meetings Act and Freedom of Information Act, Parliamentary Procedures and Roberts Rules of Order, and the Birmingham Ethics Ordinance. The meeting is scheduled for December 1, 2011 at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. at the Birmingham City Commission room. Everyone on the Cable Board is invited to attend. The meeting will be videotaped and linked to the Birmingham website.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 p.m.