

KPFT Local Station Board meeting Minutes

January 9, 2019 — revised draft of 2019-01-11

Montrose Center

419 Branard, Houston, TX 77006

- **Chair Ted Weisgal called the meeting to order at 7:20pm.**

[All sequential times in paragraphs below are approximate estimates]

He began by describing the issue of debate... "The maker of a motion may speak 10 minutes the first time, then two minutes the second time, and everybody else two minutes. A two-thirds vote is required to close and vote, as has been done in past years. Three persons may speak for pro, and three for con. Do you limit two-minutes-each only, for an extended debate?" K.C. Sinclair favored speeding up discussion by limiting it to individuals who have a decisive comment. When Ben Perodeau pointed out to Ted that he was superseding the agenda, Ted acceded to having the motion and discussion later.

- **Staff Recognition.**

Recognitions were bypassed this meeting.

- **Roll Call.**

At 7:25 **Roll Call** began. Present were: Alán Alán Apurim, Joseph Davis, Anisa Faruqi, Robert "Bob" Gartner, DeWayne Lark, Mike Lewis, Susie Moreno, Vinisha PatelAdams (late-arrival), Ben Perodeau, Nancy Saibara-Naritomi, K.C. Sinclair, Rita Washington, Ted Weisgal, and Vaniecia Williams (14 total). Absent were Wesley Bethune, Bill Crosier, Elayne Duncan, the (non-voting) iGM Don Freeman, Wally James, Jim Krafka, Adrienne "CleoLeo" LaViolette, Matthew Moore, Rick Pothoff, and Egberto Willies. (9 total voting-eligible LSB members). One seat is newly vacant because of a term-limitation at new-year's day.

- **Agenda Approval.** [5]

At 7:30 documents were distributed and the agenda was discussed. It was noted that the the approval of the agenda required two-thirds vote to change it. The agenda was approved.

- **Governance committee**

At 7:33, Joseph Davis reported that the governance committee had no report. It is delayed until the February meeting.

- **Community Advisory Board**

At 7:35: CAB update by P.K. McCary — the CAB met three times in 2019 at SHAPE. In April, four new CAB members were added, Tanuke Smith (as the new Chair), P.K. McCary, Terry Lefave, and Vinisha PatelAdams (who later resigned to assume other duties) replaced by Aubrey Williams. The next meeting two more members were added, Eddy Garcia and Yolanda Marshall. Discussed were town-hall meeting development (diversity and inclusion). Planned for the first weekend in April, inviting groups and partners in a Saturday event at either SHAPE or at the Montrose Center. Invited groups would be surveyed about KPFT. P.K.

made a motion to accept members of CAB and its chair, and to have inclusive CAB work with outreach, meeting the first weekend in April. The motion was approved. The list of seven CAB individuals, Tanuke Smith, Terry Lefave, P.K. McCary, Yolanda Marshall, Vinisha PatelAdams, Stephanie Thomas, and Aubrey Williams, was approved.

At 7:45 in the meeting, a motion to replace term-limited Board member Adriana Casenave with a write-in was made. It was postponed to a later date.

• **Committee Reports**

At 7:48, Building Committee reports began with the sad news that long-time KPFT grounds and building maintenance volunteer Robert "Bob" Garner had for unspecified reasons, been banned from the premises. He reported he felt "abandoned" and not consulted when other volunteers ignorantly ruined his garden projects, because "things were done behind my back" and iGM Don Freeman would not mediate or confer with him.

For the Fundraising Committee report, Ted Weisgal had none, and postponed it until February's meeting.

The Pacifica National Board (PNB) reports were done by three members present, with a 30-second question and one-minute answers format. Adriana Casenave reported, "No plans to repay the \$3-million loan, no transparency, no information since October 2017" and "The majority of the Board is overriding its bylaws." Joseph Davis commented, "PNB acts to support majority of the B.A. action's wealthy interest of Pacifica Foundation — running us into bankruptcy." Dwayne Lark waited till after D impending Public Comment break to complete the committee report.

• **Public Comment.** [Time: 8-8:30pm]

- "Captain" Tom: "I attended B and B as previously stated 'We need to work together, keep this station going, keep community happy.' Name-calling, etc. of the board meeting is upsetting me. Let's work together as a team. PNB and LSB, get it together."
- Akua Holt (mentioned a written letter and forms): "I'm concerned that we're going back to that same place [the lawsuit of several years ago] with the same players on the PNB. We can be civil — but some who can't get there way, they throw a tantrum, take their toys, and want to play somewhere else. We'll continue to seek the truth — one person cannot seek to control KP FT. If you say you are about community radio, you should show it in your actions."
- P.K. McCary: "When Dr. Kamau was iGM, we had a town hall meeting, supports by programmers, branding of KPFT with 'I am KPFT' t-shirts. We have no creative debates. KPFT stands on a history of being diverse — build up membership, campaign to do it, have a pool of new people to pick from for the next LSB."
- Bernadine Williams spoke next, expressing concerns about bannings of Nancy Saibara-Naritomi and Bob Gartner. "Our membership doesn't want to hear about the mess here. We need to get a good programming. Bill Crosier needs to go."
- Adriana Casenave spoke to last "Carry the torch, show commitment. Nobody thanked me for the dollars and time I spent [on the Boards]." She spoke of free speech and having a uncompromised Media. "I choose to be an American." Bill Crosier, Grace Allen — even Pacifica Archives are being used as collateral for loans. The Executive Director doesn't even know what's going on. I hope all of you stay strong, against attacks." (The Public Comments concluded with a round of applause and cheering).

• **Committee Reports conclusion...** [Time: 8:30pm]

DeWayne Lark reported on the PNB: "1. For 13 months I asked PNB for a fundraising and [loan] payback plan. 2. We went through three National Elections Supervisors. 3. Bylaws violations—two-thirds majority required for changing timelines of an election — these rogues in the PNB changed it to a simple majority. Such hypocrites! This majority forced this ED to go against his own recommendations to terminate this election in May, because the original NES said this thing is rife with corruption, the lists around the country have been co-opted ... he declared the election was over, by his authority to do so — but this rogue PNB majority forced the ED to fire and hire another one... [twice]. These were honorable individuals. But now they have a dishonorable lady willing to do it." He spoke of a long list of violations he has composed. "They are intentionally destroying this foundation, to gather-up the five stations and run it the way they want to run it."

- **PNB Director Elections**

8:33-9:00pm: One-minute questions made by LSB members to candidates for PNB positions followed their 30-second self-introductions about their goals. Questions focused on increasing listenership paying members, PNB and stations' transparency and accountability, the massive debt pay-off plans, telephonic participation and its manipulation, and explanations about firings of NES administrators by PNB "majority-faction" members until they got one that would co-operate with their objectives.

9:00-9:20pm: Delegate Assembly for electing One Staff and three Listener representatives for PNB. Candidates need to have served on the LSB at least one year. An instant-runoff election for one Staff director, and the top-three in the Listener category. Nominees were Bob Gartner (remaining as a Staff nominee), Wally James (Staff, not present), Vinisha PatelAdams (Staff), Mike Lewis (Staff), Vanecia Williams (Staff); Wesley Bethune (Listener, not present), Bill Crosier (Listener, not present), Jim Krafka (Listener, not present), DeWayne Lark (Listener), Adrienne LaViolette (Listener, not present), Rick Pothoff (Listener, not present), Nancy Saibara-Naritomi (Listener).

9:20pm: Questions and answers to the nominees-present followed.

9:50pm: Voting began for one Staff Director nominee, with a winning threshold of 8 votes. Votes were A. PatelAdams (10), B. James (0), C. Gartner (2), D. Lewis (2). The sole seat goes to Vinisha PatelAdams.

9:58pm Conveners for Committees were made: Anti-Racism & Diversity — Ben Perodeau, Broadcast Vehicle — none, Budget & Finance Oversight — P.K. McCary, Development — Nancy Saibara-Naritomi (to be held at Central Market, January 15).

10:10pm: Voting began for three Staff Director nominees. Ballots included A. Jim Krafka, B. DeWayne Lark, C. Rick Pothoff, D. Vanecia Williams, E. Adrienne LaViolette, F. Wesley Bethune, G. Nancy Saibara-Naritomi, H. Bill Crosier. The three elected were DeWayne Lark, Wesley Bethune, and Nancy Saibara-Naritomi.

10:15pm: Conveners for Committees, continued: Facilities Planning & Management — none, Governance — none, Management Selection & Review — K.C. Sinclair, Outreach — K.C. Sinclair, Program Council — Mike Lewis & Vanecia Williams, Technology — Ted Weisgal, Fundraising — Ted Weisgal & DeWayne Lark. Governance Committee will be asked to define in a "standing rule" vs. "Bylaws" question whether there is a valid requirement for removal of a Board Member for failing to serve on at least one committee annually.

- **Finance Committee**

10:25pm: P.K. McCary reported the PNB has not fulfilled its duties and there is not a report. Our KPFT representative has been blocked from participating in the National Finance Committee, a violation of California Civil Code for non-profits and our bylaws. The KPFT Finance Committee recommends that the PNB follow-up to provide status of the budget to the LSB. Our General Manager has the responsibility to obtain monthly reports for the local budget planning. Without our participation on the PNB National Finance Committee, their function is invalid. This recommendation was passed as a motion.

- **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 10:34pm. The next LSB meeting will be on the second Wednesday of February, same time and place.