

DRAFT Minutes — APPROVED with no modifications

WBAI Local Station Board May Meeting

Call to Order

Remote meeting of the WBAI Local Station Board due to Governor's shelter in place order. Held via Zoom on Wednesday May 13, 2019.

Meeting is called to order at 7:15 and presided over by Carolyn McIntyre with Charlotte Albrecht as secretary. Timekeeper is Amy Wilson.

[Link to the roll call vote record.](#)

[Link to Zoom video and audio recordings.](#)

Approval of Agenda

Michael White moves the [agenda](#) (see below). William Heerwagen motions to amend agenda by adding the two motions after general manager's report for five minutes each.

First: "The WBAI LSB urges management to review the classification of all workers and also to post – to the staff list and externally, at least on the station's website – all upcoming openings in every category, before any hiring temporary or permanent employees, consultants, or contractors."

Second, "Whereas the bank fee for each monthly Buddy payment is less than a dollar per month, but together, costs the station thousands of dollars per year, be it resolved that the WBAI LSB urges management to consider asking those who make contact with the program – such as new WBAI Buddies or those adjusting the amount of their monthly donation – to slightly increase their planned monthly donations to cover the cost of processing the payments."

Some discussion. Motion fails with 6 for, 7 against, and 3 abstentions. Original agenda is adopted with no objections.

1. Convene meeting.
2. Adopt Agenda. (20 minutes maximum)
3. Roll Call, including verifications respecting telephone attendees. (2 minutes)
4. Excuse absences. (5 minutes)
5. Approve outstanding minutes: March 11, 2020 and April 8, 2020.
6. Motion to enable the LSB Finance Committee to meet via teleconference (2 minutes)
7. Presentation on Social Media Strategy To Promote Programming, Amplify WBAI's Online presence, and Extend Fundraising Capabilities. (Beginning no later than 7:30 PM or directly following agenda approval, 30 minutes)

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8. Public Comment. (Must always begin no later than 9:15 PM, 30 minutes total with 2 minutes maximum per speaker before next in queue to speak. People who have not spoken yet will be preferenced).
9. Fundraising and Call Center. (15 minutes)
10. Status of LSB Program Director Search Subcommittee & Election Report (2 minutes)
11. Report of LSB Committee of Inclusion. ([Link to Committee of Inclusion application](#)). (2 minutes)
12. Report from PNB Governance Committee Members, including about Public Comment and Bylaws. (2 minutes)
13. Report from Pacifica National Board Directors including information regarding bylaws. (15 minutes report and 5 minutes for discussion)
14. Review status of WBAI Management Evaluation Committee. Executive (2 minutes)
15. Report on WBAI Fightback Committee Activities. (5 minutes)
16. General Manager's Report and Archive Issues. (8 minutes report and 8 minutes for questions).
17. Report from Interim Program Director. (3 minutes, 3 minutes for questions)
18. [Treasurer's Report](#). (5 minutes report and 5 minutes for questions)
19. [Resolution to Form Governance Committee](#). (William Heerwagen) (10 minutes)
20. Report of Community Advisory Board. (3 minutes)
21. Unfinished Business. (5 minutes)
22. New business. (5 minutes)
23. Adjourn no later than 9:45 PM. (EST).

Attendance and Adopting Minutes

Voting members in attendance: Charlotte Albrecht, Mitchel Cohen, Jack DePalma, Jack Devine, King Downing, Ana Garcia, DeeDee Halleck, William Heerwagen, Errol Maitland, R Paul Martin (Treasurer), Basir Mchawi, Carolyn McIntyre, Hazel Pinder, Ralph Poynter, Shawn Rhodes, James Sagurton, Max Schmid, Sharonne Salaam, Marilyn Vogt-Downey, Michael White, Amy Wilson. Ex-Officio (non-voting): Berthold Reimers, General Manager.

Hazel Pinder, who participated by phone call-in, experienced technical difficulties. Sharonne Salaam joined late. Randy Credico, Safia Albaiti, and Alex Steinberg are absent with advance notice given to the Chair. Sharonne Salaam is also absent with reason.

Michael motions to excuse all absences at today's meeting. Michael motions to include March absences. Mitch objects. Roll call vote on amendment to include March absences. Amendment

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passes 16 for, 2 against, 1 abstention. Vote to excuse absences as amended passes 16 for, 2 against, 1 abstention.

April minutes were adopted with no objections.

Motion to enable teleconferencing

R. Paul motions to enable the LSB Finance Committee to meet via teleconference. Charlotte amends this motion to allow all committees of the WBAI LSB to meet via teleconference. Amendment passes with no objections. Motion as amended passes with no objections.

Presentation from Ethan Fox on Social Media Strategy for WBAI

Ethan, a social media specialist and digital organizer, shared a social media strategy to promote programming, amplify WBAI's online presence, and extend fundraising capabilities. His powerpoint presentation can be viewed in full [here](#). He also took questions from staff and listeners, beginning around [01:22 in the recording](#).

Public comment was held afterwards.

Discussion of Fundraising

Discussion begins with ongoing issues at the call center. Hazel describes problems including call center not being able to find premiums offered on air, not calling back people trying to pledge. Ralph also has not been receiving premiums. Basir agrees it's frustrating from producer's perspective, also difficult to coordinate offsite fundraising. During pandemic, difficulty of coordinating fundraising offsite.

Basir also expresses concern over premiums offering dubious health effects (such as Gary Null's show) during a public health crisis. Jack Devine agrees strongly with Basir and emphasizes moving away from current premium fundraising model to one that attracts large amounts of ongoing small dollar donations. Sharonne recommends events, such as honoring producers. Also need to be speaking to and directly involving the communities we serve. Ana emphasizes professional social media help.

Reports & Other Discussion

Status of LSB Program Director Search Subcommittee & Election Report. Chair reports the results of the election. The committee is Rosalie Hoffman, Shawn Rhodes, Jack Devine, Max

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Schmid, Safia Albaiti, Michael White, Reggie Johnson and Errol Maitland. Shawn Rhodes will convene first meeting.

[Report of LSB Committee of Inclusion](#). Submitted & presented by William Heerwagen.

Report from Pacifica National Board Governance Committee. Presented by Michael White. Whether or not to give more time to or change the method of public comment.

Report from Pacifica National Board Directors. Given by James Sagurton, filling in for Alex Steinberg. Says he's winging it. There is a Pacifica-wide hiring freeze for staff, consultants, contracts. Hires have to go through PNB. James is against austerity that takes away ability to raise money.

James was (unexpectedly) elected as chair of the National Finance Committee and PNB Treasurer. There is still a split (pro- and anti- WBAI factions) on the PNB, with one swing vote. Dubious numbers may be used to justify selling off WBAI. Same as it ever was! More bylaws amendments are being discussed, James thinks they could undermine grassroots democracy and endanger the station.

Dee asks if Berkeley sold a building. James: yes, and it was used as part of settling WBAI's debt with Empire State building debt. William: clarifies it was sold by PNB. Further discussion of classifying income and negotiations with "the big loan."

Review status of WBAI Management Evaluation Committee. Given by Basir. Suggest discussion of final report take place in executive session. Emphasizes confidentiality because of personal information. Michael says he doesn't know if it will be ready. Report will be given before the meeting, week before meeting takes place. Basir motions to hold a closed meeting on Wednesday May 27th at 7 pm for "consideration of final report of wbai mgmt eval committee." Passes with no objections.

Mitch motions to add 30 minutes to the agenda. No seconds. Michael motions to add 15 minutes to the agenda. Motion passes.

Report on WBAI Fightback Committee Activities given by Marilyn. Recognizes those who worked hard in the bylaws fight. Turned out 60% of producer vote, which was key. Marilyn will send a written report to LSB.

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General Manager's Report. Given by Berthold Reimers. Berthold supplements his report with a **Fund Drive Analysis** emailed to the board during the meeting. Issues with archive are due to server, beyond our control. Says station did due diligence in looking out for COVID concerns. Asks for comprehensive fundraising and/or social media proposals. All things considered, we are doing well financially.

Report from Interim Program Director. Given by Linda Perry. Recommends LSB do more presentations or workshops. Many new programs to serve our communities. Gives information about many new progressives shows and schedule adjustments. Collaborating with WPFW. Consistent news programs addressing the pandemic. Urges producers to fill out their archive information so she can put together an overview of our best COVID coverage. Encourages premiums that can be distributed online instead of in person, like e-books.