

Minutes for the regular National Finance Committee meeting January 12, 2021.

Meeting convened at 8:47 PM (ET) a quorum being present, the Chair and Secretary being present.

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Attending: Sharon Adams, Teresa J. Allen, Fred Blair, Chris Cory, DeWayne Lark, R. Paul Martin (Secretary), James Sagurton (Chair), Anita Sims (interim CFO), Nancy Sorden, Polina Vasiliev also attending were WBAI General Manager Berthold Reimers and PNB Chair Alex Steinberg.  
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Agenda:

1. Convene meeting 8:30 PM (ET)
2. Roll Call
3. Adopt agenda
4. Chair's announcements (1 minute)
5. Minutes Approval (2 minutes)
6. Replacing our former Yahoo! Groups E-mail list. (Fred Blair 10 minutes report and Q & A)
7. WBAI Budget Presentation with General Manager Berthold Reimers (30 minutes report and Q & A)
8. Central Services Formula (60 minutes)
9. Reports from stations on Budget Timeline progress (KPFT, KPFK) (2 minutes)
10. Unfinished Business: Motion for a moratorium on Central Services from KPFT
11. New Business
12. Adjourn no later than 10:15 PM (ET)

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**Motion:** (James Sagurton) “To adopt the agenda.” (Passed as amended without objection)

The Committee discussed the motion.

**Amendment:** (R. Paul Martin) “To change ‘Old Business’ to ‘Unfinished Business.’” (Passed without objection)

Chair's announcements 8:51 PM (ET)

“Tonight we will review the Budget for WBAI. WBAI General Manager, Berthold Reimers will be presenting. He requested to be first on the Agenda.

Pacifica National Board Chair, Alex Steinberg, will be attending tonight’s meeting.

Committee member and Treasurer from KPFK, Fred Blair, has set up a new E-mail list for our use and it is up and running successfully: natfinancecom@groups.io We will briefly discuss it and what we should do to replace our old Yahoo group list.

The November Financials are available and have been distributed to the Committee on our new list. We will review them at our next meeting.”

Minutes Approval 8:52 PM (ET)

**Motion:** (R. Paul Martin) “To approve the minutes of the December 8, 2020, NFC meeting.” (Passed without objection)

**Motion:** (R. Paul Martin) “To approve the minutes of the December 22, 2020, NFC meeting.” (Passed without objection)

Replacing our former Yahoo! Groups E-mail list 8:54 PM (ET)

The KPFK Treasurer said that he had taken on the responsibility of contacting the Pacifica Information Technology person about Pacifica setting up a mailing list for the NFC. After not hearing back from him the KPFK Treasurer said he had set up a mailing list for the NFC on the no-cost service of Groups.io. He said that Pacifica’s E-mail services are outsourced and that there are all sorts of problems with it.

The committee discussed the issue.

**Motion:** (Polina Vasiliev) “To adopt Groups.io for the mailing list for the NFC.” (Passed without objection)

WBAI Budget Presentation with General Manager Berthold Reimers 9:10 PM (ET)

The WBAI General Manager came on the call and told the committee that the WBAI draft FY21 budget projected \$1.302 million for Listener Support. He said that owing to Covid-19 restrictions there were issues with Community Events and the Saturday morning Broadway theater ticket donations. He noted that the Development Director had left the station but he left the salary and benefits for the position in the draft budget. He said that he was projecting making \$100,000 month from on-air fund raising. He said the station has a 52 week schedule of on-air fund raisers. He said that listeners can’t tell when the station is going to pitch. He said that the draft budget assumes a 78.3% fulfillment rate, but that the station is actually achieving a fulfillment rate of 83% to 85%.

The committee discussed the draft budget proposal. The WBAI General Manager said that it was a deficit budget, showing a Net Loss at the end of FY21 of about \$109,000. He said that there is a bequest of about \$200,000 that the station would be getting soon. He said that he had been expecting it in September 2020, but there should be no issues with it. He said that he has already earmarked the \$200,000 to go to the National Office for paying Central Services fees.

The interim CFO said that the Listener Support number seems high but she thought that the budget will not be in deficit due to the \$200,000. She suggested that maybe the WBAI General Manager can save in health care and other areas that are high. She said that some of the budget is ambitious but the bequest makes a world of difference.

In answer to a question the WBAI General Manager said that the current interim Program Director is salaried at \$65,000 and she is not taking any health benefits, so that saves some money.

The PNB Chair said that new revenue streams were being explored at WBAI and that he expected that they would result in real revenue within the next 18 months. There was a further discussion of the WBAI General Manager’s 52 week on-air fund raising plan.

**Motion:** (Polina Vasiliev) “The NFC recommends to the PNB the approval of the WBAI FY21 budget.” (Passed without objection)

Central Services Formula 10:11 PM (ET)

The committee once again discussed a Central Services formula.

**Motion:** (Chris) “To extend the time for the meeting by five minutes.” (Passed without objection) 10:15 PM (ET)

The committee continued to discuss a Central Services formula and how to arrive at one. It was suggested that a straw poll be done to get an idea of how the committee might vote.

**Point of Order:** (R. Paul Martin) *Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised* does not permit straw polls [RONR (12<sup>th</sup> ed.) 45:72].

The committee continued to discuss whether to try to arrive at a final resolution regarding a Central Services formula or to hold a special meeting to deal with it.

**Motion:** (Chris Cory) “That the NFC dedicate to the single purpose of finding a Central Services formula a meeting on January 19, 2021, at \_\_\_\_.”

The Committee discussed the motion.

**Motion:** (James Sagurton) “To fill the blank with ‘8:30 PM (ET).’” (Passed without objection)

**Motion as amended:** “That the NFC dedicate to the single purpose of finding a Central Services formula a meeting on January 19, 2021, at 8:30 PM (ET).” (Passed without objection)

Adjourned 10:25 PM (ET)

Submitted by R. Paul Martin, Secretary.