

DRAFT Minutes — *last updated 09.07.21 6:15 pm*
WBAI Local Station Board August 2021 Meeting

- [Link to Zoom video and audio recordings](#)
- [Link to WBAI LSB Google Drive Folder](#)
- [Link to attendance and roll call vote record](#)

Call to Order

Regular meeting of the WBAI Local Station Board, convened remotely due to COVID. Held via Zoom on August 11th, 2021. Meeting is presided over by Carolyn McIntyre with Charlotte Albrecht as Secretary.

Approval of Agenda

Charlotte motions we strike #21 and #22. No objections. Agenda adopted as amended.

1. Convene meeting.
2. Adopt Agenda. (20 minutes)
3. Roll Call. (5 minutes)
4. Excuse absences. (5 minutes).
5. Announcement of the Chair (1 minute)
6. Presentation from Local Election Supervisor (3 minutes) — Renata Sago
7. Approve outstanding minutes: [July 14, 2021](#) (5 minutes)
8. Chair's Update About Pacifica's Executive Director's Response to Management Evaluation Report and Recommendations (1 minute)
9. Moment to Recognize Glenn Ford's Passing (1 minute)
10. Report from Pacifica National Board Directors (5 minutes & 4 minutes for discussion) — Alex Steinberg, Ralph Poynter, Shawn Rhodes, James Sagurton
11. Report from Community Advisory Board (2 minutes) — Neale Voss
12. [General Manager's Report](#). (8 minutes for report & 6 minutes for discussion) — Berthold Reimers
 - a. [Analysis of Premium Performance](#)
 - b. [BAI Buddies June 2021](#)
13. [Treasurer's Report](#) — (5 minutes for report & 5 minutes for discussion) — R. Paul Martin
14. Report of LSB Committee of Inclusion. (2 minutes) — William Heerwagen

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15. Discussion: Station Policy and Approach to cross-promotion, Discussion and Debate Between Shows (10 minutes)
16. Discussion: Program Evaluation Criteria (5 minutes)
17. Discussion: Creation of Ad Hoc Programming Advisory Committee (5 minutes)
18. Discussion: Successes of Progressive Left Alternative Media Outpacing Corporate and Legacy MSM (2 minutes)
19. Further Discussion: Updating Covid Precautions- Public Service Announcements and Programming Alignment With Government & Pharmaceutical Industry Promoted Policies (10 minutes)
20. [Resolution Supporting Use of Rotating Fundraising Slots in New 52-Week Schedule As Opportunity For Content-Based Fundraising That Builds Listenership](#) (5 minutes) — Michael D. D. White
- ~~21. Raising money for COVID affected people. (2 minutes) — Errol Maitland~~
- ~~22. Motion Respecting Hiring a Full Time Pacifica Foundation Executive Director and Funding That Person's Compensation. (4 minutes) — Mitch Cohen~~
23. Public Comment. (30 minutes, 2 minutes maximum per speaker before next in queue to speak. Must always begin no later than 9:15 PM ET.)
24. Unfinished Business. (5 minutes)
25. New Business.
26. Adjourn no later than 9:45 PM. (ET)

Attendance

Voting Members in attendance: Charlotte Albrecht, John Brinkley, Mitchel Cohen, Jack DePalma, DeeDee Halleck, William Heerwagen, Errol Maitland, R Paul Martin, Basir Mchawi, Carolyn McIntyre, Hazel Pinder, Shawn Rhodes, Sharonne Salaam, James Sagurton, Alex Steinberg, Marilyn Vogt-Downey, Mitchel Cohen, Michael White, Amy Wilson.

Absent: Jack Devine, King Downing, Maxine Harrison-Gallmon, Ralph Poynter, Max Schmid.

Michael motions to excuse all absences at today's meeting. No objections.

Reports

6. Presentation from Local Election Supervisor by Renata Sago. There will be candidate debates hosted via Zoom and broadcast on WBAI. 13 candidates have confirmed participation in the first one, which will be August 15th. There will be another on in September, as well as a

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staff debate. Renata's email is wbailes-2021@pacifica.org. Further election info can be found at elections.pacifica.org. List of candidates is [here](#).

7. Approve outstanding minutes: [July 14, 2021](#). Michael motions to adopt. No objections.

8. Chair's Update About Pacifica's Executive Director's Response to Management Evaluation Report and Recommendations. Still no response. Marilyn asks that Alex reach out to her as a PNB member.

9. Moment to Recognize Glenn Ford's Passing. Remembrances given by Mitch and John B.

10. Report from Pacifica National Board Directors. Update given by Alex Steinberg. New Day Pacifica is still taking legal action against the PNB and Alex personally. New bylaws amendments will be introduced at the next meeting of the National Board. James Sagurton gives a financial update. There is a \$90,000 monthly deficit at KPFK that needs to be addressed.

- Errol: What does the Pacifica iED think of this deficit? What steps are being taken to address it?
- James: PNB directed KPFK to cut its expenses by 30% 1.5 years ago. We missed an opportunity when we had more cash from the Payroll Protection Plan (PPP) to afford severance packages for KPFK employees. PNB could direct KPFK to cut expenses again, but that is unusual.
- Dee Dee: Why did WBAI get the lowest amount of PPP money and KPFK get the most? James: We have the least amount of staff, KPFK has the most. Their station is more top heavy, we have learned to operate with more efficiency out of necessity.

Marilyn moves to extend by 3 minutes. No objections.

- Dee Dee: Frustrated by lack of development/fundraising work at WBAI. We need more staff to support it.
- John: If KPFK has larger listenership and more staff, are they seeing returns from that?
- Marilyn: We need a staff person each for membership, development, and fundraising.

11. Report from the Community Advisory Board given by Neale Voss. CAB did not meet in July due to technical issues. Will meet in August and September, in order to meet the quarterly meeting requirements of CPB. Info will be on kpftx.org.

Next item is the General Manager's Report, but Berthold is not present. Mitch motions we return to it after the Treasurer's Report.

12. General Manager's Report. Berthold is not present. Written version [here](#). Supplementary materials referenced are [Analysis of Premium Performance](#) and [BAI Buddies June 2021](#).

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13. Treasurer's Report presented by R. Paul Martin. You can read it [here](#). Next Local Finance Committee meeting is August 18th, Next National Finance Committee Meeting is August 24th. Info on kpftx.org.

- Sharonne: When people donate large sums or bequests does the full amount go to WBAI?
- R. Paul: Currently when a station gets a large windfall a certain percentage of it has to go towards what WBAI owes to Central Services.
- James: Can we now apply for more grants because of audits being up to date?
- R. Paul: Yes, but it's unknown how much exactly we can get from that.

14. Report of LSB Committee of Inclusion. The committee has not met since the last LSB meeting, but will meet on September 13th.

15. Discussion: Station Policy and Approach to cross-promotion, Discussion and Debate Between Shows.

- Michael: Discussion between show hosts will boost listenership. Referring to each other by name is necessary to these discussions, but must avoid ad hominem.
- R Paul: Focusing on issues is the way to go. There's an issue of uneven enforcement by management: an unpaid staff person was suspended for "attacking" another producer on air, but a paid staff person was not.
- Basir: There is a double standard between paid and unpaid staff. We should have public forums to
- grow listenership and raise money while also addressing important issues.
- Marilyn agrees producers shouldn't critique each other by name.
- Charlotte requests information. Was this prompted by Johanna Fernandez's critique of Gary Null's analysis of implicit bias? The terms of what we're talking about are obscured.

Michael moves to extend by 6 minutes. No objections.

- Charlotte continues: If not "attacking" other producers is station policy, a standardized definition that distinguishes from attack and critique needs to be communicated to staff.
- Sharonne: because there are no standards in place at the station, people don't know where to appeal or what rules to refer to when someone is removed from the air.
- Michael responds to Charlotte's request for information. Fernandez made an off the cuff remark referencing Gary Null, but acknowledged this the next day and instead critiqued a specific position taken on the show. Null then responded, referencing Fernandez by name. Mimi Rosenberg then suggested that Gary Null that should not be on the air and said that he was "ranting." One of her two shows was then taken off the air.
- Hazel: are there on-air standards for producers written down anywhere?
- R. Paul responds directly. There used to be, but new producers would not have seen them.
- John: Is there a producer's handbook?

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- R Paul responds directly. It's not being done anymore.

16. Discussion: Program Evaluation Criteria.

- Michael has been informally working on a list of program criteria for producers to check in with themselves to evaluate the quality of their shows. Would like feedback.
- Charlotte references last month's discussion of a "rebirth" of WBAI and what holistic programming for the station would look like. Was there ever a formal rubric? Re: the below item, was there ever a similar body at WBAI?
- Marilyn: the Pacifica bylaws says the LSB has a responsibility to evaluate programs on a regular basis to make sure they serve the station community.

17. Discussion: Creation of Ad Hoc Programming Advisory Committee.

- Michael: WBAI had two attempts at this. Management does need a group of people to consult when making decisions because no one can listen to all shows 24/7.
- Charlotte: What mechanisms can we use?
- Marilyn reads the Pacifica bylaws concerning LSB duties and responsibilities.
- R Paul: A standing Programming Committee was created in 2004 but fell apart by 2007.
- Mitch: whoever motions for creating this committee clearly should work with others to clearly delineate its purpose and responsibilities.
- John: Process established should include a mechanism for listeners and producer input.

Michael motions to extend by 4 minutes. No objections.

- Alex: Was the former chair of the old committee. There was a Programming Council of unpaid staff that also ran out of steam. Both were due to "turf wars."
- Charlotte: Looks like next steps are consulting with Alex as former chair, looking at old structure, collecting criteria from other stations if they exist, then writing an actual resolution.

18. Discussion: Successes of Progressive Left Alternative Media Outpacing Corporate and Legacy MSM. Introduced by Michael. He suggests everyone watch [this clip](#).

Dee Dee expresses concern that neither Linda or Berthold are here tonight.

19. Further Discussion: Updating Covid Precautions- Public Service Announcements and Programming Alignment With Government & Pharmaceutical Industry Promoted Policies.

Introduced by Michael. WBAI airs a lot of PSAs about COVID, but is concerned that some information can be traced back to Dr. Fauci and the pharmaceutical industry.

- Alex: Can't align ourselves with the right-wing that exploits fears about vaccines.
- Mitch: Take into consideration motivations and rights of unvaccinated station members.

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- Errol: Misinformation about COVID has killed people of color and poor people. We can be skeptical, but not unscientific. WBAI must bring proven facts to its community.
- Maxine: There are many doctors on WBAI with a critical view of vaccines that do not align with the mainstream media.
- Errol: there was a producer during the AIDS crisis who said he would shoot himself up with AIDS to prove that it wasn't killing people. We can't go there again.

20. Resolution Supporting Use of Rotating Fundraising Slots in New 52-Week Schedule As Opportunity For Content-Based Fundraising That Builds Listenership. Michael reads his [resolution](#) written some months ago. We should get behind the opportunity that the rotating slot strategy presents.

James motions to extend for 3 minutes. No objections.

- Mitch: This doesn't reflect the reality of what's actually going on, with programs being removed and pre-empted with shows like Christine Blasdale. Objects to the motion.
- R Paul is opposed to the motion.

R Paul motions to postpone this to the next meeting. No objections.

- Dee Dee: This isn't the role of the board, this is the Program Director's purview. Agree with Mitch's critique of Christine Blasdale.

21. Public Comment is held from 9:15 to 9:45.