

ADOPTED Minutes

WBAI Local Station Board April 2021 Meeting

Call to Order

Regular meeting of the WBAI Local Station Board, convened remotely due to COVID-19 Precautions. Held via Zoom on April 14th, 2021. [Link to Zoom video and audio recordings.](#)

Meeting is called to order at 7:12 pm and presided over by Carolyn McIntyre with Charlotte Albrecht as Secretary.

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

Approval of Agenda

Agenda (below) is adopted with no objections.

1. Convene meeting.
2. Adopt Agenda. (20 minutes)
3. Roll Call. (5 minutes)
4. Announcement of the Chair and Welcome of Doc Shya to the LSB. (2 minutes).
5. Election of LSB Secretary. (3 minutes)
6. Excuse absences. (5 minutes).
7. Approve outstanding minutes: March 10, 2021 Meeting (5 minutes)
8. Chair's Update About Pacifica's Executive Director's Response to Management Evaluation Report and Recommendations. (1 Minute)
9. Report from Pacifica National Board Directors (10 minutes) — Alex Steinberg, Ralph Poynter, Shawn Rhodes, James Sagurton
10. Resolution With Respect To WBAI's Community Advisory Board Complying With CPB Requirements (8 Minutes) — James Sagurton
11. Report from Community Advisory Board — (2 Minutes)— Neale Voss
12. Report On Producer Completion of Program Information in WBAI Archive— Maxine Harrison-Gallmon. (1 minute)
13. General Manager's Report. (8 minutes for report & 6 minutes for discussion) — Berthold Reimers
14. Programming Updates. (8 minutes for report & 6 minutes Q&A) — Berthold Reimers
15. Expected Date of Next Open Fundraising Task Force Meeting— Maxine Harrison-Gallmon. (1 minute)
16. Expected Date of Next Town Hall— Jack de Palma (1 minute)
17. Resolution Condemning Proposed Pacifica Foundation Bylaws Referendum. — Michael D. D. White (5 minutes)
18. Proposed Resolution for the WBAI LSB to Reject the 2021 Proposed Cahnges To Pacifica ByLaws— Marilyn

ADOPTED Minutes

WBAI Local Station Board April 2021 Meeting

Vogt-Downey (5 minutes)

19. Announcement: Installation of WBAI billboard on the NJ Turnpike — John Brinkley (1 minute).

20. Report of Radio Committee (1 minute) — Shawn Rhodes.

21. Report From Program Director Search Committee. (2 minutes) — Shawn Rhodes.

22. Report of LSB Committee of Inclusion. (2 minutes) — William Heerwagen

23. Treasurer's Report. — (5 Minutes report 5 minutes discussion) — R. Paul Martin

24. Discussion: Possible Changes, Including with Respect to LSB Meetings, with Phase Back of Covid Precautions

(8 Minutes)

25. Raising money for COVID affected people. (2 minutes) — Errol Maitland

26. Resolution Supporting Use of Rotating Fundraising Slots in New 52-Week Schedule As Opportunity For

Content-Based Fundraising That Builds Listenership.— Michael D. D. White (5 minutes)

27. Motion Respecting Hiring a Full Time Pacifica Foundation Executive Director and Funding That Person's

Compensation. (4 minutes) — Mitch Cohen

28. 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.)

29. Unfinished Business. (5 minutes)

30. New Business.

31. Adjourn no later than 9:45 PM. (ET)

Attendance

Voting Members in attendance: Charlotte Albrecht, John Brinkley, Mitchel Cohen, Jack DePalma, Jack Devine, King Downing, DeeDee Halleck, Maxine Harrison-Gallmon, William Heerwagen, R Paul Martin, Basir Mchawi, Hazel Pinder, Ralph Poynter, Shawn Rhodes, James Sagurton, Sharonne Salaam, Max Schmid, Alex Steinberg, Marilyn Vogt-Downey, Michael White, Amy Wilson, Carolyn McIntyre.

Absences excused: Errol Maitland, Shya Bey.

Election of LSB Secretary. Jack DePalma resigned as Secretary at the March meeting. Charlotte Albrecht is nominated and is elected unanimously.

Approval of March minutes. Delayed until the next meeting.

Chair's Update About Pacifica's Executive Director's Response to Management Evaluation Report and Recommendations. The IED has not responded substantively as of this meeting.

ADOPTED Minutes

WBAI Local Station Board April 2021 Meeting

Report from Pacifica National Board Directors. Alex gives us an update. Maturity date of the \$3.1 loan is extended for 18 months. Financial and organizational reforms are having positive impacts, which were mentioned by the auditor. 30% reduction of expenses at KPFA. Labor union negotiations are now being negotiated at the national level instead of by local station managers. First government Paycheck Protection Plan (PPP) loan forgiven! Secured a second round of PPP funding, also around \$2.1 mil, also expected to be forgiven. The 2019 audit will be done by the end of April, 2020 audit by the end of June. James adds that windfall income (bequests, etc) should be applied to loan repayment. And we are current on loan payments. Loan was renewed at the same interest rate.

Resolution With Respect To WBAI's Community Advisory Board Complying With CPB Requirements. Presented by James Sagurton. Text of resolution [here](#). Text of bylaws concerning CABs are [here](#). James explains we need to have an active CAB to qualify for and maintain CPB grants. Alex wants to standardize for all stations. R. Paul and Mitch want to postpone until next time to give time to read bylaws concerning CABs (text of which are [here](#)). The motion to postpone this resolution until the next LSB meeting passes with no objections.

Report from Community Advisory Board. Given by Neale Voss. CAB recommendations to LSB include programming for Chinese-Americans, restaurant workers, disability rights, trans issues, space exploration, and more foreign language shows, as well as a poetry program with poems selected by committee. WBAI should have a 3 person ethics committee.

Report On Producer Completion of Program Information in WBAI Archive. Given by Maxine Harrison-Gallmon. Highlighting concerns of listeners that show archives do not include synopses of each episode. This is a CPB requirement. Not only is it a professional obligation for producers, it will also increase listenership on the site and help with metadata searches. Michael adds that when producers put synopses on other sites it shifts the center of gravity away from WBAI.

General Manager's Report & Programming Updates. Given by Berthold Reimers. Berthold screenshares the quarterly report with description of shows categorized by subjects covered, a requirement for CPB funding. Website overhaul in progress. Shares highlight of report, the text of which can be found [here](#). Report back on implementation of allegiance. Now Berthold takes questions and comments.

Marilyn: What is the total membership of WBAI as of April 7th? Also, call center has no option to pledge to a favorite show. Berthold: does not know exact number, estimates 7,500 or more. Basir: why was Education at the Crossroads not included as a "favorite show" option? Important because producers are evaluated on these metrics. Berthold suggests emailing him directly when a listener signs up, but this is not something Basir can keep track of.

ADOPTED Minutes
WBAI Local Station Board April 2021 Meeting

At this point, R. Paul Martin takes over meeting minutes.

Draft Minutes for the regular WBAI Local Station Board meeting April 14, 2021.

Starting from just before the time when the Secretary had to leave the meeting.

Resolution Condemning Proposed Pacifica Foundation Bylaws Referendum. — Michael D. D. White 8:25 PM (ET)

Motion: (Michael D.D. White) **“Resolution of WBAI’s Local Station Board Finding That Proposed “New Day Pacifica” Bylaw Changes Will Be Extremely Destructive and Adverse To The Interests of Pacifica**

Whereas, whenever proposals are made to fundamentally alter the structure of the Pacifica Foundation (“Pacifica”) it is essential to examine those proposals with care to determine whether such proposed changes would truly be helpful to Pacifica or would, instead, be detrimental and destructive;

Whereas, while it would be nice to assume that proposals to make fundamental changes to Pacifica are always made with good faith intentions to improve Pacifica, that is something that should never be assumed;

Whereas, Pacifica, as currently structured, stands ready to be a provider of truth, facts, factual corrections, and alternative narratives that pose a significant threat to the dominating narratives of the monopolistic, corporate, mainstream press that serve power structures that seek to quash and censor opposition, and, as such, we must be on guard against those entering the Pacifica environment that, whatever their pretenses, choose to be destructive and disruptive to Pacifica;

Whereas, we have to be aware that Pacifica and its terrestrial radio stations are an even more obvious target for attack by these powerful interests, because unlike the internet sources of news, information and communication, terrestrial radio cannot be as easily shut down, censored, silenced, manipulated, monitored and surveiled as is becoming increasingly evident as a problem with respect to the internet;

Whereas, we, as WBAI’s Local Station Board (“LSB”) do not want to see Pacifica destroyed by being driven into bankruptcy or by being dismantled and reconstructed as another arm of the corporate owned and corporately captured press and media conglomerates (for instance becoming a corporate Democrat “blue broadcaster” such as some of the corporately-owned cable channels);

ADOPTED Minutes

WBAI Local Station Board April 2021 Meeting

Whereas, our LSB believes that WBAI is one of Pacifica's most progressive stations, successful in steering away from the traps of corporately captured and promulgated narratives and that its independence, voice, and ability to continue to be this way should be protected and preserved;

Whereas, the best way to ensure that Pacifica fends off destruction and/or neutering of its ability to be a strong, free-speech source of alternative narratives that serve the public interest and intellectual freedoms is for Pacifica and its stations to remain democratically accountable to its listeners;

Whereas, the LSB has reviewed, and is alarmed in the extreme by, the "New Day Pacifica" proposals to change the bylaws seeing that they will be detrimental and disruptive to the essential purposes of Pacifica for all of the above reasons; and

Whereas, the LSB therefore wishes to set forth its condemnation of the "New Day Pacifica" proposals for reasons that include all of what we set forth below; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, by LSB as follows:

Section 1. The LSB condemns the "New Day Pacifica" proposals because:

A. The LSB emphatically notes that many of the people behind the push for the "New Day Pacifica" proposals are the very same people who were behind and involved in: I) the surreptitious, unauthorized, illegal, and costly shutdown of WBAI of October 2019, ii) the simultaneous secretly launched and roundly defeated (by a 2/3rds margin) last set of disruptively proposed, antidemocratic bylaw changes of that time that destructively drained Pacifica of \$150,000 of its resources, and iii) advocating for shutting down WBAI.

B. The proposals are designed to be an undemocratic and racially skewing power grab by an elite minority with conflicts of interest that would shut out from representation the blacker, browner, more progressive East Coast Stations (WBAI and WPFW). To wit, the virtually complete erosions of democracy include:

- The bylaw changes would establish locked-in rule over Pacifica for three years by four unelected, self-appointed officers, including with conflict of interest connections to for-profit media. These individuals would have no professional radio experience. The lock-in would include officers hostile to and connected with the shutdown of WBAI. The individuals being picked for this lock-in of power do not include any representation for WBAI or WPFW, the other East Coast station. None are from the staff or affiliate stations.
- Pacifica's proportional voting representation ensuring a voice for minority opinion would be eliminated by reducing to one the number of representatives sent to Pacifica's National Board from each station, thus ensuring that only the majority would have any representation or voice.

ADOPTED Minutes

WBAI Local Station Board April 2021 Meeting

- To extend this elimination of elected voices the majority-representing national board members would get to appoint additional board members suitable to their more limited, undemocratic mind-set.
- The changes would eliminate local control and influence over local station broadcasting by taking away the LSB oversight over station general managers. Thus programming in New York City and Washington D.C. would be effectively determined top-down by those seizing power on the West Coast. As the example of the October 2019 shutdown of WBAI demonstrated, what these kinds of people chose to do the last time they had the opportunity to do this was to run programming that was innocuously bland, dull and unthreatening to power and devoid of any sense of locality.
- The changes would rejigger the staff representation rules in order to assure that the results of staff elections would always give the West Coast Pacifica stations assured dominance.

C. The proposals are additionally very suspect because they would do absolutely nothing to improve Pacifica's financial condition, but presenting and having to deal with proposals like these absolutely worsen it. The recurring launches by the same people to make different kinds of overhauling changes to the bylaws are probably intended as attempt to drain Pacifica's precious spare resources (including possible forcing a bankruptcy of Pacifica) and foment perpetual debilitating distraction, as much as they are actually in hope of successfully making any such changes.

D. The proposals would make the Pacific bylaws far longer than they are now and far more complicated, a highly undesirable outcome.

Section 2. To defend against and repel this onslaught against listener interest, the LSB encourages WBAI listeners to increase their contributions to WBAI and Pacifica, and if they are not currently, to become current members of WBAI and Pacifica, particularly on or before April 7, 2021 (with a contribution of \$25 or more), and to encourage everyone they know to do the same.

Section 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately and the LSB directs the LSB chair to forward this resolution to the Pacific National Board and make every effort to promulgate it widely for public view and to ensure it becomes widely known that the LSB denounces the "New Day Pacifica" proposals by reason of all the harm the proposal of those bylaw changes are apparently designed to inflict on Pacifica in its pursuit of its mission and particularly on WBAI."

Motion: (Alex Steinberg) "To extend the time for this item by five minutes." (Passed without objection) 8:32 PM (ET)

The Secretary announced that she was having a bad migraine headache and would have to leave the meeting. R. Paul Martin agreed to take minutes for the rest of the meeting as Secretary *pro tem* 8:33 PM (ET).

ADOPTED Minutes

WBAI Local Station Board April 2021 Meeting

The LSB discussed the motion.

Amendment: (Mitchel Cohen) “To strike the preamble.” (Passed 13 for, 1 against, 6 abstentions)

The LSB discussed the amendment.

Motion as amended: “**RESOLVED**, by LSB as follows:

Section 1. The LSB condemns the “New Day Pacifica” proposals because:

A. The LSB emphatically notes that many of the people behind the push for the “New Day Pacifica” proposals are the very same people who were behind and involved in: I) the surreptitious, unauthorized, illegal, and costly shutdown of WBAI of October 2019, ii) the simultaneous secretly launched and roundly defeated (by a 2/3rds margin) last set of disruptively proposed, antidemocratic bylaw changes of that time that destructively drained Pacifica of \$150,000 of its resources, and iii) advocating for shutting down WBAI.

B. The proposals are designed to be an undemocratic and racially skewing power grab by an elite minority with conflicts of interest that would shut out from representation the blacker, browner, more progressive East Coast Stations (WBAI and WPFW). To wit, the virtually complete erosions of democracy include:

- The bylaw changes would establish locked-in rule over Pacifica for three years by four unelected, self-appointed officers, including with conflict of interest connections to for-profit media. These individuals would have no professional radio experience. The lock-in would include officers hostile to and connected with the shutdown of WBAI. The individuals being picked for this lock-in of power do not include any representation for WBAI or WPFW, the other East Coast station. None are from the staff or affiliate stations.
- Pacifica’s proportional voting representation ensuring a voice for minority opinion would be eliminated by reducing to one the number of representatives sent to Pacifica’s National Board from each station, thus ensuring that only the majority would have any representation or voice.
- To extend this elimination of elected voices the majority-representing national board members would get to appoint additional board members suitable to their more limited, undemocratic mind-set.
- The changes would eliminate local control and influence over local station broadcasting by taking away the LSB oversight over station general managers. Thus programming in New York City and Washington D.C. would be effectively determined top-down by those seizing power on the West Coast. As the example of the October 2019 shutdown of WBAI demonstrated, what these kinds of people chose to do the last time they had the opportunity to do this was to run programming that was innocuously bland, dull and unthreatening to power and devoid of any sense of locality.

ADOPTED Minutes

WBAI Local Station Board April 2021 Meeting

- The changes would rejigger the staff representation rules in order to assure that the results of staff elections would always give the West Coast Pacifica stations assured dominance.

C. The proposals are additionally very suspect because they would do absolutely nothing to improve Pacifica's financial condition, but presenting and having to deal with proposals like these absolutely worsen it. The recurring launches by the same people to make different kinds of overhauling changes to the bylaws are probably intended as attempt to drain Pacifica's precious spare resources (including possible forcing a bankruptcy of Pacifica) and foment perpetual debilitating distraction, as much as they are actually in hope of successfully making any such changes.

D. The proposals would make the Pacific bylaws far longer than they are now and far more complicated, a highly undesirable outcome.

Section 2. To defend against and repel this onslaught against listener interest, the LSB encourages WBAI listeners to increase their contributions to WBAI and Pacifica, and if they are not currently, to become current members of WBAI and Pacifica, particularly on or before April 7, 2021 (with a contribution of \$25 or more), and to encourage everyone they know to do the same.

Section 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately and the LSB directs the LSB chair to forward this resolution to the Pacific National Board and make every effort to promulgate it widely for public view and to ensure it becomes widely known that the LSB denounces the "New Day Pacifica" proposals by reason of all the harm the proposal of those bylaw changes are apparently designed to inflict on Pacifica in its pursuit of its mission and particularly on WBAI." (Passed without objection)

Proposed Resolution for the WBAI LSB to Reject the 2021 Proposed Changes To Pacifica ByLaws 8:43 PM (ET)

Point of Order: (Alex Steinberg) "This motion is rejecting bylaws amendments, and that can't be done before the PNB has not voted on the bylaws amendments."

The LSB discussed a proposed motion that was not made at this time.

Motion: (Marilyn Vogt-Downey) "To extend the time for this item by three minutes." (Passed 14 for, 3 against, 3 abstentions) 8:55 PM (ET)

Motion: (Marilyn Vogt-Downey) "Be it Resolved that:

ADOPTED Minutes

WBAI Local Station Board April 2021 Meeting

The WBAI Local Station Board totally rejects the New Day Pacifica proposed bylaws changes and urges all members of the PNB to vote NO! On the motion regarding the upcoming referendum.” (Passed without objection)

Point of Order: (William Heerwagen) “New member Shya Bey is trying to get onto the meeting.”

The new member got onto the meeting and was welcomed by the Chair.

Announcement: Installation of WBAI billboard on the NJ Turnpike — John Brinkley 9:04 PM (ET)

The member announced that a 14 foot by 48 foot billboard advertising WBAI had been put up last week on the New Jersey Turnpike at exit 15 when coming from New York City. He said it was donated by New Jersey listeners and it will be up for the next six months.

Report of Radio Committee 9:06 PM (ET)

The Pro-Tem Chair of the committee told the LSB that the March LSB show took place on March 31, and there was a lot of positive feedback. He said that the highlight was that a listener called in and donated his entire stimulus check to the station. He said that the next one would air on April 29. He asked LSB members to please respond to queries from implementers when they are contacted.

Report From Program Director Search Committee 9:08 PM (ET)

The Chair of the committee told the LSB that the deadline to apply for the job has been extended to April 16. He said that the committee has gone through 112 resumes and pared it down to four that they’ll interview, and that the interviews will start next week.

The Chair ruled that this agenda item would resume from this point after Public Comment.

Public Comment 9:16 PM (ET)

Members of the public were called upon and made comments.

At 9:32 PM (ET) there were no more members of the public who wanted to speak.

The Chair ruled that the LSB would go back to the previous agenda item.

Report From Program Director Search Committee resumes 9:32 PM (ET)

Motion: (John Brinkley) “Resolved that the Chair of the Program Director Search sub-committee shall provide the LSB with the information necessary to sit in on every candidate

ADOPTED Minutes
WBAI Local Station Board April 2021 Meeting

interview and with candidate resumes which shall be treated in the same manner as the sub-committee.”

The LSB discussed the motion.

Motion: (Ralph Poynter) “To extend the time for this item by 10 minutes.”

Point of Order: (James Sagurton) “Where are we on the agenda?”

The Chair said that this item was not on the agenda, but it’s regarding the Program Director Search Committee, and that since the time was up on that item the LSB would have to extend in order to discuss the motion.

Amendment: (Michael D.D. White) “To make the extension five minutes.” (Passed 11 for, 8 against, 2 abstentions)

Motion as amended: “To extend the time for this item by five minutes.” (Passed 17 for, 5 against) 9:43 PM (ET)

The LSB discussed the motion.

Motion: (Marilyn Vogt-Downey) “To extend the time for this item and the Treasurer’s Report to 10:00 PM (ET).” (Passed without objection)

The LSB continued to discuss the motion.

Amendment: (William Heerwagen) “To replace ‘sitting in’ with ‘listen in.’” (Passed 11 for, 8 against, 3 abstentions)

The LSB discussed the amendment.

Amendment: (DeeDee Halleck) “To add ‘pending legal approval.’ at the end.” (Passed without objection)

The LSB discussed the amendment.

Motion as amended: “Resolved that the Chair of the Program Director Search sub-committee shall provide the LSB with the information necessary to listen in on every candidate interview and with candidate resumes which shall be treated in the same manner as the sub-committee, pending legal approval.” (Fails 6 for, 14 against, 2 abstentions)

Point of Order: (Mitchel Cohen) “This requires a two thirds vote.”

ADOPTED Minutes

WBAI Local Station Board April 2021 Meeting

Chair - Rules that it does require a two thirds vote to pass because it amends the motion previously passed which created the Program Director Search Committee and mandated how it would function.

Point of Order: (Michael D.D. White) “The time for the meeting is over.” 10:05 PM (ET)

Point of Order: (Shawn Rhodes) “The motion contradicts the Pacifica bylaws, which say that, ‘the LSB may appoint a specific sub-committee to undertake this task.’ and not that the entire LSB may participate.”

The LSB continued to discuss the motion.

Call for the orders of the day: (Mitchel Cohen) 10:09 PM (ET)

The Chair summed up what the LSB had done at this meeting.

Adjourned 10:13 PM (ET)

Submitted by Charlotte Albrecht, Secretary

and

Submitted by R. Paul Martin, Secretary *pro tem*.