

WPFW- LSB Regular Meeting Minutes November 8, 2023

Teleconference via Zoom Washington, DC

Minerva Sanders – Acting Chair

Thomas Blanton – Vice Chair

Kamau Harris –Treasurer

Ellen Williams Carter – Secretary

1.Call to Order started at 6:38 p.m.

2.Logins/Greetings/Roll Call

Minerva Sanders

Verna Avery Brown

Sue Goodwin

Ron Pinchback

Kamau Harris

Eric Ramey

Vanessa Dixon-Briggs

Wanda Gnahoui

Julie Hewitt

Violetta Diamond

Thomas Blanton

Wayne Bruce

Bill Curtis

Arthur Hyland

Dennis Williams

Eric Ramey

Anita Irene Adams

Sarah Brown

Wayne Bruce

Excused absence: None

Unexcused absence: Yaw Agyei, Karen Briggs, Donna Grimes, Vicki Gass, Luci Murphy

3. Resignations: No resignations.

4. The agenda approved.

5. October 11, 2023 minutes were approved.

6. Management Reports:

Jerry Paris, General Manager, reported:

Pledge Drive

- It was a qualified success. We raised \$300, 000. Major donors also sent funds. The Development Staff brought in \$15,000.

Transmitter

- We had reduced power on October 28. The power went down to 2000 watts during the pledge drive. American University had to do work on the transmitter site. It involved all the clients at the tower. While completing the work on the other transmitters, they did some work on our transmitter.

Finances

- The rent is paid up until November. The transmitter tower rent is paid. We are operating pay check to pay check.

Reopening the Station to Guest

- We can't have guest at the station because Pacifica has liability insurance problems.

General Managers Retirement

- Jerry Paris, General Manager announced that he will retire in April 2024. He has submitted his retirement letter to the Executive Director. The GM said, he will help with the transition to a new General Manager at WPFW.

Katea Stitt, Program Director, report (see attachment A)

- She was unable to attend the meeting because she had a meeting concerning PRA programming. She submitted a written report.

7. Introduction of the New Local Station Board Members:

Karen Briggs -She was unable to attend the meeting.

Wayne Bruce- He attended the meeting.

Michael Byfield-He attended the meeting.

Vanessa Dixon – Briggs- She attended the meeting.

Victoria Gass - She was unable to attend the meeting.

Robert Gordon – He was unable to attend the meeting.

Tony Leon- He was unable to attend the meeting.

Mariah McClain- She attended the meeting.

Ambrose Lane - He attended the meeting.

Dennis Williams - He attended the meeting.

8. Finance Committee Report

Treasurer, Kamau Harris reported: (see Attachment B)

The Finance committee met Nov 6. Jerry gave a financial report.

Kamau would like a meeting before the next LSB meeting to discuss the budget.

9. Community Comment

Martha Peterson thanked Jerry for his work as General Manager. She inquired about the investigation of the Festival Center issue.

Sabooh Hikim asked, do you have to be a board member to be on the Relocation Committee?

Miyuki Williams stated the Cash App donations will take longer to process. She reminded the LSB that she is a member of the Development Staff.

Michael Byfield congratulated the new LSB members. In addition, he congratulated the staff on the fundraising during the pledge drive. In December, he would like to do a hybrid LSB meeting.

Arthur McCloud said he called the station during the LSB show and he wasn't admitted to the airways. He wanted to make a comment regarding their statement about the Programmer's Coalition/Association.

Ambrose Lane thanked Jerry for serving and wished him well.

Marsha Edwards had questions about the amounts that the Programmer's Coalition/Association raised during their fundraiser.

10. Relocation Committee

The committee has not met.

Meetings will resume on November 15 at 7:30 pm.

Agenda

- 1) Convene Meeting
- 2) Roll Call
- 3) Finalize minimum space requirements
- 4) Prepare estimate of total cost to move
- 5) Assign team to inventory equipment/assets at the station
- 6) Questions
- 7) Adjourn

Topic: WPFW Relocation Committee Meeting

Time: Nov 15, 2023 07:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Every 14 days, until Feb 7, 2024, 7 occurrence(s)

Nov 15, 2023 07:30 PM

The next meetings are:

Nov 29, 2023 07:30PM

Dec 13, 2023 07:30 PM

Dec 27, 2023 07:30 PM

Jan 10, 2024 07:30 PM

Jan 24, 2024 07:30 PM

Feb 7, 2024 07:30 PM

11. PNB Report

Julie Hewitt reported:

- The Pacifica Local Station Board delegate election was completed in October. The list of new delegates was sent by the NES to the stations.
- The ED is putting together a hand book and asking all delegates to go through sexual harassment training.
- The Pacifica stations won't get CPB funding for Fiscal year 2024.
- The investigation on the Festival Center issue is not complete.
- Non delegates on committees can't vote on financial and personal issues. They can volunteer their service on committees.
- The station lease expires on December of 2024.

12. Development Committee report

Irene stated that the committee won't meet in November or December and didn't meet in October. She received the refrigerator magnets.

13. Program/LSB Show Committee report (submitted a report: Attachment C)

They had a meeting:

1. They need grid information about program changes.
2. They need information about the Programmer's Bill of Rights so they can plan for 2024.

LSB Show Committee report

Bill Curtis submitted a report. During the program they raised \$850. Lona Alias helped with technical support. Von Martin joined the broadcast and helped pitch.

14. Community Outreach Committee

Voletta said the committee met on November 6 and discussed:

1. Scheduling a Town Hall meeting for the beginning of the year.
2. This month, they will interview Candy Shannon for the newsletter.
3. Magnets are available.
4. Mid-Atlantic Jazz Festival has a free table for WPFW.
5. They are unable to plan the U Street Jam because there is an issue finding a location and other logistics.

15. Evaluation Committee

The committee is not in place. They will need to reactivate, it for a search committee for a new GM.

16. Communication and Standards committee

No report.

17. Unfinished Business

None submitted.

18. New Business

A request was made by the Chair, Minerva Sanders, that motions should be made in the committees. Then submitted to the LSB at the meeting.

19. Action Items/Agreements Summary

None made.

Motion made by the Chair, Minerva Sanders:

I move that we adjourn the meeting now.

Vote: 9 Yes 5 No

20. Minerva Sanders, Chair, Adjourned the meeting at 9:44 PM

Minutes submitted by: Secretary, Ellen Williams Carter

Attachment A

Katea Stitt, Program Director Report

Greetings Minerva and LSB Members

The November report below is the last PD Report I will submit until Jerry Paris, the GM, is held to the exact same standard of submitting a written report. For far too long there has been a pattern and practice of a double standard as it pertains to the work and actions of the PD and the GM. Hoping this will end with the seating of the new LSB.

The Fall Drive, though not making the goal, was nonetheless successful. We raised \$300K for the first time in over a year.

The actions of Hamas, and Insrael's unrelenting genocide in Gaza definitely impacted our ability to fundraise. In addition, we were forced to broadcast at reduced power - 2000 watts instead of 50,000 watts - on the last day of the drive for 6 hours.

I strategically place fundraising shows throughout the grid. I also strove to ensure we stayed on mission by producing special programming centering both Palestinian and Jewish voices working on behalf of Palestinian liberation. As a Pacifica station, we take seriously the vision and mission of Founder Lew Hill who was a pacifist and conscientious objector, jailed several times as a result. The programming featured many Palestinian and Jewish activists, musicians, poets and scholars, giving them a much needed platform to discuss, grieve, and center the humanity of the Palestinian people.

The special programming received a few negative responses from those who wanted Israel's perspective to be centered. However, we garnered new listeners and financial supporter as a result of doing this work.

WPFW, in partnership with WBAI, presented special Indigenous People's Programming that was well received. Joni, Ambrose and Parisa successfully executed a cross-programming series to deal with food insecurity and accessibility in DC. All Programmers provided exemplary and relevant programming throughout the drive.

The two stations also co-produced and presented a very successful live broadcast this past Saturday, November 4, of both the Black Is Back Coalitions Black People's March on the White House, and the Palestinian Freedom March from 11am until 6pm. I, along with Garland Nixon and Netfa Freeman, was invited to speak at the Black Is Back Rally!

Thanks to those LSB members who helped pitch and get Programmers to goal. Thanks to the LSB members who donated to various shows.

Thanks to Tom Cole, we have a table at the Capital Audio Festival to disseminate information.

The Pacifica Radio Archives national fundraising programming is 9am-midnight, Tuesday, November 14.

Katea

Attachment B

Kamau Harris, Finance Report

Finance Committee

WPFW Local Station Board (LSB)

Report to the LSB

November 8, 2023

Kamau Harris, Treasurer/Chair

Julie Hewitt, Member

Lou Wolf, Member

Sabooch Hikim, Member

Tony Leon, Member

Eileen Rosin, Member

Kathleen Maloy, Member

The Finance Committee held its monthly meeting on Monday November 6th at 7pm via Zoom. The agenda was as follows:

1. Convene Meeting
2. Financial Report from Management (Jerry Paris)
3. Review September bank transactions and October outstanding Accounts Payable
4. Review of August YTD Profit and Loss Statement
5. Review draft of FY24 WPFW Budget
6. Update on motion passed at October LSB – Financial Responsibility
7. Questions
8. Adjourn

The following financial information was provided by station management:

Ending Cash Balance in Truist Acct at 10/31/2023: \$ 107,939.33

Total Debits in Oct (-) \$ 147,321.48

Total Credits in Oct (+) \$ 237,577.76

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Ending Cash Balance in United Acct at 10/31/2023: \$ 10,000.00 est.

Ending Cash Balance in Truist Acct at 11/6/2023: \$ 86,425.80

Outstanding Accounts Payable at 10/31/23: \$ 321,736.40

Attachments: October O/S Accts Payable, September Truist Bank Transactions, Draft FY24 Operating Budget

Links: An audio recording of the November meeting is available upon request

Conclusion:

The next meeting of the Finance Committee will be on Monday December 11, 2023 beginning at 7:00pm via Zoom.

Many thanks to the members of the committee for their service!

Attachment C

Bill Curtis, Program/LSB Show Committee report

Local Station Board radio show report/LSB meeting Nov 8, 2023

-submitted by Bill Curtis, Local Station Board Member, WPFW 89.3FM

1. Local Station Board radio show occurred on October 27, 2023, the last day of WPFW's fall fundraising drive. Bill Curtis and WPFW Programmer Von Martin Co-Hosted the show. The financial goal for the show was \$600. The show raised \$750 on-air. More funds came in after the show. I'm aware of an additional \$100 coming via the mail, which brings the LSB show total to \$850.
2. A total of 10 Pledges came in from the DMV + B during the broadcast: District 3; Maryland 3; Virginia 0; Baltimore 3; and West Virginia 1.
3. Big thanks and appreciation to Programmer Lona Alias (Sprit of Jazz, Sunday mornings) for providing much needed technical assistance and guidance on how to produce a show. Also big thanks to the Engineer in the background ensuring the show went smooth as possible; also, to Von Martin for teaming up to support raising funds during the LSB show.
4. The Tally for Cash App donations and website donations are not known at the time of this writing. During the LSB radio show, I was asked on-air where were the Local Station Board member callers making donations?

Recommendations

- A) Add the name 'Local Station Board' to the drop-down menu on the 'Secure Donation' page. WPFW Homepage > Support Us > Donate > Secure Donation' Make giving money easy. Right now, people cannot find the name 'Local Station Board' in the drop-down menu on the Secure Donation page of the WPFW website...because it is not there. (Three people contacted me personally and informed me that they did not see the name 'Local Station Board', so they did not donate. It was too difficult, they said.)
- B) Give training for all Local Station Board members who go on the air.
- C) Report Cash app payments on-air. Cash App payments are immediate and trackable. Cash App is tied to a phone number. That phone number is where the tally is easily seen in real time.
- D) Local Station Board Members make donations during the LSB show. The goal of \$600 is modest. The members of the LSB can chip in and meet that goal with ease. The amount of donations raised from Listener-

Supporters during the broadcast will demonstrate with ease that the Local Station Board radio show far exceeds its financial goal for that hour, and constructively contributes as part of the governance of WPFW.