

Minutes WBAI LSB Regular Monthly Meeting 12-13-23

Present: Rachel Barr, Scottye Battle, Gail Bey, John Brinkley, Elliot Crown, Joan De Lorenzo, Paul De Rienzo, Jim Dingeman, Simon Fitzgerald, Eleanor Elizabeth Forman, Jim Freund, Sally Gellert, Gloria Guillo, Bounubti Khamentou, R. Paul Martin, Mark Crispin Miller, Alejandrina Murphy, Katherine O'Sullivan, Hazel Pinder, Ralph Poynter, Matthew Reiss, Shawn Rhodes, Cerene Roberts, Michael D.D. White (Acting Chair)

Absent: Ralph Poynter (Board Member), Linda Perry (Program Director)

Also Present: Berthold Reimers (General Manager), M. Kay Williams (Acting Secretary)

Final Agenda:

1. Convene meeting- (Ask for recording of the meeting to be started and confirm designated time keeper. Note how chat is to be used.)
2. Adopt Agenda. (20 minutes)
3. Roll Call (5 minutes)
4. Excuse Absences. (5 minutes)
5. Welcome New LSB Members Being Seated (and some Members continue) – (10 minutes)
6. Approve outstanding minutes: November 8, 2023 Meeting (5 minutes)
7. Accept Nominations for Election of LSB Officers and Setting up of up to Four Sequential Confidential (OpaVote) Elections, IRV (Instant Runoff Vote) if two candidates, STV (Single Transferable Vote) if more than two candidates. (Also explanation of background that PNB Representative Elections occur in January Meeting; Population of Committees and Task Forces will be in February Meeting.) (20 Minutes): a. Chair, b. Vice-Chair, c. Treasurer, d. Secretary
8. Report from Pacifica National Board Directors. (7 minutes & 5 minutes discussion) — Shawn Rhodes, James Sagurton, Sharonne Salaam, Jim Dingeman.
9. Review of 2024 WBAI Budget (30 minutes & 15 minutes discussion)
10. Reports of General Manager and Program Director. (8 Minutes report 8 minutes discussion) — Berthold Reimers
11. Report from Community Advisory Board (1 Minute) – Neale Vos
12. Motion: Improving Communication with Listeners (10 minutes) – John Brinkley
13. Treasurer's Report. — (4 Minutes report 2 minutes discussion) — R. Paul Martin
14. Public Comment. (30 minutes, 2 minutes maximum per speaker before next in queue to speak. Must always begin no later than 9:15 PM.)
15. New Business. (5 minutes)

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

7:07 pm ET Meeting called to order by Acting Chair, a Quorum, Acting Chair and Secretary being present.

Timekeeper volunteer Jack de Palma accepted without objections.

7:11 pm ET Motion (Jim Dingeman) To adopt the agenda as read and screen shot. Seconded.

Point of Information (Cerene Roberts) How can we adopt agenda before roll call?

Ruling of the Chair (MDDW) This is the way it's always been done.

Challenge to the Ruling of the Chair (Cerene Roberts)

The Board discussed the ruling of the chair.

Point of Information (R. Paul Martin) A rule was adopted by the LSB in 2006 to adopt the agenda as the first item on the agenda and this has never been challenged or repealed, so it's a standing rule.

Ruling of the Chair: Since there is no second for the challenge to the ruling of the chair, we will proceed with adoption of the agenda.

The agenda was read by M. Kay Williams.

The Acting Chair noted there was a motion on the floor to adopt the agenda and asked if there were any objections.

Point of Information (Shawn Rhodes) In Item 7, the difference between STV (Single Transferable Vote) and IRV (Instant Runoff Vote) isn't about the number of candidates, but about the number of seats to be voted on. The member stated this was a point of information and not an objection.

7:22 pm ET The Chair called for any objections to adopting the agenda or amendments to the agenda and there were none so the motion to adopt the agenda was passed without objection.

7:23 pm ET Roll Call was taken with results as above.

7:28 pm ET Motion (Jim Dingeman) To excuse all absences. Seconded. Passed without objection

7:29 pm ET Motion (Cerene Roberts) To hear from all the members, new or continuing. Seconded. Passed without objection.

The Board heard self-introductory statements from all members present

7:39 pm ET Motion (John Brinkley) To extend this agenda item until exhaust the list. Seconded. Passed without objection.

The Board continued to hear the introductory statements of Board members.

7:45 pm ET Motion (Jim Dingeman) To accept minutes from meeting 11-8-23. Seconded. There were objections.

One member felt it was not advisable to list highlights of public comment, even though no names were attached to summaries of comments. Another was an objection to listing the absence of Secretary or Program Director, even though one is a non-voting officer of this LSB and the other is a member of WBAI management and a regular presenter.

Roll call vote was taken and the minutes were passed with 11 yeses, 3 nos, and 5 absentions.

7:55 pm ET The Acting Chair announced nominations were to be taken for officers.

A member stated they had objections to utilizing Opavote for this election but hadn't decided how to state or present their objection. The member then declined to state or present their objection, and nominations proceeded as follows:

Chair – Paul De Rienzo, Eleanor Elizabeth Forman, Sally Gellert, Michael D.D. White

All candidates accepted their nominations.

7:59 pm ET Motion (R. Paul Martin) To close nominations for Chair. Seconded. Passed without objection.

Vice-Chair – Simon Fitzgerald, Eleanor Elizabeth Forman, Gloria Guillo, Paul De Rienzo, Michael D.D. White

All candidates accepted their nominations.

8:03 pm Motion (R. Paul Martin) To close nominations for Vice Chair. Seconded. Passed without objection.

Treasurer – Bruce Grief, R. Paul Martin

Note: Bruce Grief was temporarily absent from the meeting, hence his acceptance of his nomination will be determined later. R. Paul Martin accepted his nomination. Gail Bey was also nominated but did not accept her nomination for this post.

8:08 pm ET Motion (R. Paul Martin) To close nominations for Treasurer. Seconded. Passed without objection.

Secretary – Gail Bey, M. Kay Williams

Both candidates accepted their nominations.

8:10 pm ET Motion (R. Paul Martin) To close nominations for Secretary. Seconded. Passed without objection.

8:11 pm ET - The Acting Chair proceeded to the next item on the agenda, Report from the Pacifica National Board Directors: Jim Dingeman, Shawn Rhodes, James Sagurton, and Sharonne Salaam. Noting that new PNB Directors, representing WBAI, would be elected next month.

A member interjected expressing a desire to return to consideration on the election agenda item in order for them to object to using Opavote for the upcoming election. The Acting Chair reminded the member that the member had not made a motion to object and noted that consideration of the election agenda concluded without the member having made any motion. The member stated they had wanted to discuss Opavote and make a motion after nominations were closed. The member stated they thought

they had made a motion to separate the nominations from the matter of the election. The Acting Chair ruled that no motion had been made, formulated, or acted upon before consideration of the election agenda item concluded. As such the Acting Chair ruled out of order the request to return to consideration on the election agenda for purpose of such objection and further ruled that the agenda, adopted by acclaim, calling for an election by Opavote stood as is and was now determinative.

Challenge to the ruling of the Chair (Cerene Roberts). Seconded.

The Board discussed the challenge to the ruling of the Chair.

Roll Call Vote was taken on whether the ruling of the Acting Chair shall stand and passed with 12 yeses, 7 nos, and 1 abstention.

8:29 pm ET - The report from WBAI's Pacifica National Board Directors then resumed.

Highlights:

- None of the stations are sending money to central services or the archives.
- The affiliates are the only stations not operating in deficit.
- The mood on the NFC is definitely against approving deficit budgets.
- Progressives need to work together to save Pacifica. A nationwide fundraising project which has helped in the past was proposed but stations resist this as it cuts into fundraising for their individual stations.
- An underwriting motion was passed and is now nationwide policy.

Point of Information (Cerene Roberts) This is a report of the PNB Directors, not from the PNB itself.

The Board discussed the reports.

8:46 pm ET Motion (R. Paul Martin) to extend the discussion 10 minutes. Seconded. Passed without objection.

The Board continued to discuss the reports.

8:56 pm ET Motion (John Brinkley) To extend discussion another 10 minutes. Seconded. Passed without objection.

The Board continued to discuss the reports.

9:07 pm ET The Board heard the General Manager's Report of the FY Budget for 2024. (spreadsheets and assumptions for WBAI Budget FY2024 have been sent to members. If you need a resend, please let the secretary know. This was amended at a meeting of the Finance Committee, which voted to recommend this budget to the LSB.)

Highlights:

- WBAI averaged \$20K per month in 2023. Want to increase that by \$2K per month in 2024.
- Planning a retreat in May 2024 at \$100 per person
- Also planning a fundraising event in May with Gary Null and Katherine Davis.
- Obtained some grants, including \$2.5 K for Leonard Lopate from a major donor

- A grant for the Harlem Connection
- Hoping for the grant from the City Council next year now that they know who we are
- Hope to increase income from PSA's to \$120K
- Pushing car donations
- Needed a debit card from BOA for immediate expenses. The automatic debits have been transferred to BOA.

The Board discussed the report

9:15 pm ET Motion (Jim Dingeman) To extend the adjournment time of the meeting 10 minutes, so as to extend time for this discussion another ten minutes and allow for a motion to recommend this budget to the PNB, and to also allow a full 30 minutes for public comment. Seconded. Passed without objection.

9:15 pm ET Motion (Jim Dingeman) To recommend this FY24 budget, as amended by the WBAI LSB Finance Committee, with a deficit of \$135-139K, to the National Finance Committee of the Pacifica National Board. Seconded.

Objected to. Roll Call vote was taken and the motion passed with 12 yeases, 5 nos, and 1 absention.

9:25 pm ET Public Comment Began.

9:51 pm ET In view of no further members of the public in queue to speak, the Acting Chair called for the CAB report

Highlights:

- We need a working phone number for listeners to call in.
- Bring in young interns to do the news. Need younger producers in general.
- Need a Gen X news show, a disability show, a program on cryptocurrency, a show on astrology and numerology.
- The webmaster needs to take questions from the listeners on Report to the Listener.
- If 100 producers would go to ½ hour shows, we could make room for a lot of new producers.

The Board discussed the report.

9:55 pm ET Motion (Eleanor Elizabeth Forman) To extend the end of the meeting 10 minutes in order to further discuss the Budget. Seconded. Passed without objection.

The Board continued to discuss the budget.

10:08 pm ET The Acting Chair adjourned the meeting.

Submitted by M. Kay Williams, WBAI LSB Acting Secretary