

Minutes WBAI LSB Regular Meeting 10-11-23

Present: Rachel Barr, Scottye Battle, Doc Shya Bey, John Brinkley, Jack De Palma, Jim Dingeman, Eleanor Elizabeth Forman, Dee Dee Halleck, Maxine Harrison-Gallman, Bounubti Khamentou, R. Paul Martin, Basir Mchawi, Hazel Pinder, Shawn Rhodes, James Sagurton, Max Schmid, Marilyn Vogt-Downey, Michael D.D. White

Absent: Priscilla Cancar, Jack Devine, Katherine O’Sullivan, Matthew Reiss, Sharonne Salaam, Andre Ward

Also Present: Berthold Reimers, Linda Perry, Arthur Schwartz, M. Kay Williams

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. Approve outstanding minutes: September 13, 2023 Meeting (5 minutes)
6. Report on LSB Member Pacifica Required Nondisclosure Confidentiality Agreements. (7 minutes) - M. Kay Williams
7. Report on Outcome or Status of WBAI Elections to Elect New LSB Members to Be Seated at December LSB Meeting.
8. Reporting of General Manager and Program Director. (20 Minutes report 20 minutes discussion) - Berthold Reimers and Linda Perry
9. Discussion: To set a date for Executive Session: Review and Approval of Evaluations of General Manager and Program Director (25 Minutes report 40 minutes discussion) - Management Evaluation Subcommittee
10. Report from Pacifica National Board Directors Including election updates. (7 minutes & 5 minutes discussion) - Shawn Rhodes, James Sagurton, Sharonne Salaam, Jim Dingeman.
11. Treasurer's Report. - (5 Minutes report 5 minutes discussion) - R. Paul Martin
12. Report from Community Advisory Board (2 Minutes) - Neale Vos
13. Resolution regarding functionality of email address for public to contact members of the LSB. (10 Minutes) - Eleanor Elizabeth Forman
14. Discussion: Improving WBAI and Pacifica Reputation and Brand - (10 minutes) - Michael D. D. White
15. Competing Successfully with the Internet vs and/or Becoming Internet Successful and Recent Anti-Trust Litigation Against Corporate Legacy Media’s “Trusted News Initiative” + Restrict Act- (5 minutes) - Michael D. D. White
16. Report on Town Hall Discussions: - (3 Minutes) - Michael D. D. White/Jim Dingeman/Eleanor Elizabeth Forman.
17. Discussion: Adjournment Time of LSB meeting(s)-(5 minutes) Dr. Shya Bey
18. Public Comment. (30 minutes, 2 minutes maximum per speaker before next in queue to speak. Must always begin no later than 9:15 PM.)
19. New Business. (Until end of meeting, if required)
20. Adjourn no later than 9:45 PM ET

7:17 pm ET Call to Order: A quorum, acting Chair Michael D.D. White, and Secretary being present.

7:19 pm ET Motion (Jack De Palma) To adopt the agenda. Seconded.

7:19 pm ET Amendment (Jim Dingeman) Amend Item 9 from holding Executive Session tonight to discussing a future date to hold this executive session. Seconded after wording amended by R. Paul Martin.

The Board discussed the Amendment which then Passed without Objection.

Then original motion to adopt agenda passed without objection.

7:34 pm ET Roll Call – Results as above.

7:39 pm ET Motion (R. Paul Martin) Excuse all absences. Seconded. Objected to by a member who explained her reason for not wanting to excuse the absence of one particular member.

Roll call vote was taken and the Motion to excuse all absences passed with 13 yeses, 1 no, and 1 abstention.

7:49 pm ET Motion (James Sagurton) To Approve minutes from 9-13-23. Seconded. Passed without objection.

7:54 pm ET Report on Non-Disclosure Confidentiality Agreements (NDCA's) (M. Kay Williams) 7 min.

The Board discussed the NDCA's.

8:01 pm ET Motion (John Brinkley) To extend discussion 2 min. Seconded. Passed without objection.

The Board continued to discuss the NDCA's.

8:03 pm ET Motion (James Sagurton) To extend discussion 5 min. Seconded. Passed without objection.

The Board continued to discuss the NDCA's.

WBAI's and Pacifica's legal counsel, Arthur Schwartz also participated and promised to develop a "skinny version" of the NDCA, addressing the Board's concerns.

8:08 pm ET Report on the LSB Elections (Michael D.D. White)

The Board discussed the report.

8:13 pm ET Joint Report from the General Manager and Program Director (Berthold Reimers and Linda Perry)

Highlights (from Berthold Reimers):

- In the Bank \$111.52
- WBAI Finished FY '23 with a deficit of \$157,628.56 - \$13,135.71/month per QuickBooks.
- Bequests of \$209,000.00 contributed to this performance.
- WBAI had the most diverse source of revenue this year:
 - 51% Fund Drive
 - 18% BAI Buddy (Sustain donors)
 - 15% Bequest.
 - 5% Theater Tickets.
 - 5% PSA (Public Service Announcements).
 - 2% Grants
 - 1% Car Donation
- WBAI Paid \$120,000.00 of \$202,680.00 owed to Central Services (\$10K of \$16,890 per month)
- Accounts Payable amount to \$1.5million, of which \$1.2 million is owed to Pacifica.
- The most concerning Accounts Payable are:
 - 4TS (Tower Rent) \$41,130.59 + October 2023
 - ACD Call Center \$62,786.07
- WBAI received a bequest that is in litigation – WBAI is earmarking all the proceeds of this Bequest to these two entities.
- ACD Call Center is costing us about \$6,500.00 per month. WBAI is trying to pay them off to transfer the number back to WBAI to have volunteers take the pledges.
- WBAI continues to reduce expenses by reducing consultants but this reduces our daily revenue by \$1-2K, and makes our work harder.
- Some producers have obtained grants (\$6K for the Labor Show). When producers who have raised grants ask for some personal reimbursement out of the grant money, it raises some legal questions.

Highlights (from Linda Perry):

- There have been specials on the Middle East, with Beyond the Pale host Ron Daniels and Linda Sarsour, and more are planned.
- There will be a new program with young broadcasting students from CUNY called "Audiophile."
- Now that the election is over, it frees up more 5 min slots for new PSA's.

8:41 pm ET Discussion: To set a date for a future Executive Session for review and approval of evaluation of the General Manager and Program Director from the Management Evaluation Committee.

The Board discussed the evaluation and the possible dates and requirements for the Executive Session.

The Chair of the Management and Evaluation Committee stated the original timeline for this evaluation planned for the final evaluation to be given to the managers involved so they could respond by the last meeting of this LSB on 11-8-23.

Motion (James Sagurton) To extend discussion 10 minutes. Seconded. passed without objection.

The Board continued the discussion.

Motion (Shawn Rhodes) To hold the executive session at 7 pm either on Wed. 10-25-23 or Mon. 10-30-23. (Not seconded)

Point of Order (R. Paul Martin) Need to specify one date or the other.

Amendment (James Sagurton) Due to the Pacifica Governance meeting which starts on 10-25-23 at 8:30 pm sharp, need to specify a time certain for ending this meeting after 1 ½ hours.

Amended Motion (Shawn Rhodes) To hold the executive session on Monday 10-30-23 from 7 pm to 9:45 pm ET, as kpftx showed no other meetings on that night. Seconded. Objected to by a member who stated that, although it was not listed yet, there was going to be a meeting of the WBAI LSB Outreach and Fundraising Taskforce at 7 pm that night.

Roll Call Vote was taken and the motion passed with 8 yeses, 5 no's, and 4 abstentions.

9:19 pm Public Comment began

Highlights:

- Importance of social media.
- Fundraisers at SOB's lose more than they make.
- Need more events at Ethical Culture and "socials."
- Need a back-up transmitter.
- WBAI offers more opportunity than other stations for listeners to share opinions. Remember that billionaires relax when we are fighting.
- Consultants are not employees. Their salaries are public.
- We need a program about Disabilities.
- What happened to the CAB report? The CAB voted an important motion for the LSB about how we need to negotiate with Verizon to restore the root 2900 branch number.
- Some consultants make only a monthly Metro card for all their work.
- Our bank balance changes daily. It will be over \$3K tomorrow.
- Echo listeners who commended WBAI for surviving.
- Some producers cut off listeners who call in and disagree with them. Producers need to be careful how they treat listeners.
- What is happening with the CPB application?

9:53 pm Adjourned.

Submitted by: M. Kay Williams, Secretary