

**2013 WPFW COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD**

**March 18, 2013 Meeting Minutes**

*Attendees: Cynthia Hartley (Chair-elect), Chad Alexander Vice-chair- elect), Alvernon Garey, David Vega (Outgoing Vice-Chair), Antonn Muhammad, Vincent “Vinny” Jack (WPFW Staff), John Hughes (WPFW Staff), Marcel Reid, Thomas Raney, Keith Braswell, Carolyn Brown (Outgoing Chair), Pete Tucker (LSB), Eric Ramey (Guest), Ron Benjamin (Outgoing Secretary), Andre Bellamy (Secretary-elect), Gloria Turner (LSB), Tony Norman (LSB) and Najeeullah Rashad.*

On the record at approximately 7:16pm.

**FIRST ITEM OF BUSINESS IS THE ADOPTION OF AGENDA(S)**

Ms. Brown, still acting as chair until the subsequent nomination and election of Ms. Hartley,

opened the meeting by moving for the adoption of the agenda for the new year. The question was put forth if anyone had any proposals to change the agenda. There were none.

Ms. Brown had a list of previously passed resolutions to add to the agenda, if time permitted.

Mr. Vega noted that he contacted Mr. Benjamin to add items to the agenda regarding the issue of continuity within board leadership, but was informed by Mr. Benjamin that his duties as secretary changed and he could not add Mr. Vega to the agenda. The change in Mr. Benjamin’s role was perplexing to Mr. Vega; however, he had to leave town and did not have ample opportunity to discuss adding the topic of continuity to the agenda. Ms. Brown informed him that the agenda and list of board members had been distributed for some time and Ms. Brown should have been contacted instead of Mr. Benjamin.

Ms. Hartley wanted to raise the topic of having subcommittees within the Board as many of the members have varied interests. She offered that the topic of subcommittees could be tabled for a future meeting.

Ms. Brown placed all comments pertaining to the succession plan, including those from Mr. Vega, under ‘New Business’ for discussion.

Mr. Garey made the motion to adopt the agenda. Mr. Vega provided a second motion. The motion to adopt the agenda was carried unanimously.

Ms. Brown cites the next item up for adoption being the meeting notes from the CAB November meeting of 2012. Five minutes was given for everyone to review those notes.

Again, Mr. Garey makes the motion to adopt the notes from the November meeting so that we may put it to bed. An unidentified (possibly Ms. Hartley) seconds the motion.

The motion to adopt the meeting notes was carried with one abstention.

Ms. Hartley amended the minutes from the February 2013 meeting. The amended version stated Ron Benjamin as outgoing secretary of the CAB. Subsequent to a review of the minutes, Ms. Reid motioned to adopt the minutes, which was quickly seconded. The motion to adopt the minutes was carried unanimously with no opposition.

**NEXT ITEM IS FOR THE ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Mr. Braswell raised the question of whether one could nominate a Board member when that member has not put their name forward for the position. Ms. Brown presented this for discussion. Mr. Vega stated that this was not in violation of the CAB by-laws. Ms. Brown concurred, as long as the nominated individual agreed.

Ms. Brown opened the nominations for the 2013 CAB Chair.

Mr. Raney proposed that anyone interested in one of the officer positions, they should speak up and indicate why they wanted to be an officer.

Ms. Hartley noted that members were to have expressed their interest in an officer position to Mr. Jack. Not knowing how many had submitted their expression of interest, Ms. Hartley nominated herself for Chair. Mr. Garey seconded the nomination. No other nominations ensued. Hearing none, the nominations were closed, and Ms. Cynthia Hartley was named 2013 CAB Chair.

Ms. Hartley (presiding Chair) now moves for nominations for 2013 CAB Vice-chair. Mr. Vega nominated Mr. Braswell for the position. Mr. Braswell declines the appointment and followed with a nomination for Mr. Alexander. Mr. Alexander accepted and Mr. Vega seconded the nomination. Mr. Alexander is welcomed as the 2013 CAB Vice-chair.

For the position of secretary, Mr. Vega nominated Mr. Bellamy. As a first time board member, Mr. Bellamy asks Mr. Benjamin for mentorship and Mr. Benjamin agreed.

Mr. Hughes offered assistance in the form of recording and transcribing minutes of the meeting as a service to the board. Ms. Hartley noted that the Corporation for Public Broadcasting requires that the CAB be independent and not include members of the station staff. As such, Ms. Hartley noted that the secretary would take the meeting minutes and distribute them to the board and to Mr. Jack as WPFW staff liaison. There were no objections.

Ms. Brown commented on recordings and official files, which should be on the station’s website and not on an individual’s personal Sky Drive. As this is a body of the station, official files should be maintained by the station in order to maintain the integrity of documents. Ms. Hartley did not disagree at all, but believes the meeting minutes are to be transcribed and delivered within seven days of being approved by the Board. The transcribed minutes will thereby be approved at the next meeting and immediately posted as a PDF to the website.

Mr. Alexander asked if the board could have a copy of the recording. Mr. Hughes agreed Mr. Alexander’s request to make a copy of the recording available to the board.

**NEXT ITEM OF BUSINESS IS TO REVIEW THE BY-LAWS**

Ms. Hartley cites discrepancies between distributed by-law copies and Ms. Brown’s version. Ms. Hartley re-read the by-laws along with comments and corrections she provided. It is suggested for future by-laws that the date be placed in the footnote as to the date it was finalized plus a version number of the particular set of by-law.

Ms. Brown added that the sections of the by-laws highlighted in yellow could not be altered or amended.

Ms. Hartley read the CAB by-laws according to the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. Specifically, that the CAB’s role is strictly in an advisory capacity.

**NEXT ITEM OF BUSINESS IS GENERAL MANAGER COMMENTS**

Mr. John Hughes is the general manager of WPFW. He begins by listing a number of priorities for the station. The priorities at the moment are:

Mr. Hughes announced that there has been a delay with the Clear Channel lease because The Pacifica Foundation allowed its corporate status to lapse, and subsequently, it’s license was suspended. It is in the process of being renewed. However, in the meantime, another organization has applied for and is reported to have received use of the name, The Pacifica Foundation, by the California Secretary of State. Therefore, because The Pacifica Foundation must be the lessee on the WPFW lease because Pacifica is a 501(c) 3, chartered in California as a nonprofit and holds the title and license for all five Pacifica radio stations, and it is the signatory on all legal documents, progress on the lease has stalled.

Ms. Reid mentioned that Pacifica has been doing business with Clear Channel for many years. Mr. Rainey pointed out that Clear Channel is not the landlord. Mr. Hughes confirmed that we would be subleasing from a subsidiary of Clear Channel.

The fund drive ended on March 17th and raised over $380,000 that fell short of the $400,000 goal. The fulfillment rate for this drive is in at 78% that is an improvement from past drives. The drive was successful in nearly achieving its target number, but also in aiding the station in resolving account balances with several vendors. The ‘Democracy Now!’ DVDs have been paid as well as the account with Baker & Taylor, one of our principal suppliers.

**COMMUNITY COMMENTS**

Eric Ramey, former CAB member, thanked all members of the Board for their efforts in continuing to lead. He is largely concerned with Article I – Section(s) 3 & 4 of the CAB by-laws which states of reviewing the impact on the community of significant policy decisions made by the station and assisting the station in being responsive to community needs. He iterates the station being attacked by internal forces and there is a movement to sabotage the relocation of the station through acts of verbal abuse, menacing phone calls and phantom websites being used to post information from meetings within an hour of the meeting’s closing. This has to stop.

Mr. Rashid illuminated that people’s condition will not change until they change what’s in their hearts. Where there’s unity there’s strength.

Mr. Tucker is Vice-chair of the Local Station Board (LSB). In representing the LSB, he echoed the sentiment regarding the revocation of Pacifica’s corporate status and its prevention of the station moving forward. It has the potential to become a great hindrance.

Mr. Vega decried for the continuity of institutional knowledge of what occurs at WPFW. That in order to keep abreast of station business, LSB meetings must be attended to get a better understanding of the business of the station. The CAB functions in isolation for other aspects of the station. The relationship between programmers and management is inherently adversarial.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held Monday, May 20, 2013.