

Notes from WPFW Community Advisory Board (CAB) Meeting

7:00 PM, 19 September 2011, at WPFW, 2390 Champlain St. NW 2nd Floor, Washington, DC 20009

Participants:

CAB members:

Alvernon Garey, Hyattsville, MD
Bridget Arnwine, Rockville, MD
Carolyn Brown, Forestville, MD
Frank Johnson, College Park, MD
Jeremiah Lowery, Washington, DC
Kalonji Olusegun, Washington, DC
Kathy Allen, Washington, DC
Perry Redd, Washington, DC
Ron Benjamin, Greenbelt, MD

WPFW staff members:

- none -

Guests:

Benito Diaz, Silver Spring, MD
Gar Young, Reston, VA

DRAFT

Notes:

1. Ms. Brown, noting that a quorum was present, called the meeting to order at 7 PM.
2. The CAB members discussed, revised, and approved the meeting agenda (Attachment 1).
3. The members discussed, revised, and approved the notes from the 19 September 2011 meeting (Attachment 2).
4. Mr. Johnson provided highlights of the 24-25 August retreat:
 - The meeting was facilitated by Mel Jones.
 - Loretta Rucker, the president of the African-American Public Radio Consortium, presented suggestions for successful on-air fundraising drives. Some of those suggestions are being implemented in the current fund drive.
 - Mr. Hughes discussed the fund drive and its “Campaign for Growth” theme.
 - The WPFW Web site / social media team discussed the new Web site, which is doing well; possibilities and plans for increased use of social media; and the electronic link between the Web site and the Confessor (the computer system the station uses to show compliance with music copyright restrictions).
 - There was a closed session, restricted to paid staff. It addressed station policy and protocols, performance management, and professional development and training.

- Maxie Jackson, the president of the National Federation of Community Broadcasters, discussed interaction with the community. Of particular relevance to the CAB, he differentiated between outreach (e.g. having representatives at community events) and engagement (actively “getting in peoples' faces” at community events).
- The retreat launched the WPFW strategic planning process.

Ms. Brown endorsed the outreach vs. engagement principle, and recommended assisting the efforts of the Local Station Board (LSB) Outreach and Development Committee, e.g. at the upcoming Bluebird Blues Festival.

Mr. Redd proposed that the CAB draft a survey, and provide it to the LSB. The CAB members discussed the possibility of the CAB implementing the survey on its own, rather than passing it to the LSB for action. Mr. Redd agreed to work with Ms. Arnwine to draft a survey instrument for consideration by the CAB.

5. The General Manager's report was not presented because the General Manager or his representative was not at the meeting.
6. Ms. Brown said that she had received an email from Mr. Vega saying that he would not be able to attend the meeting, but that his house party is now scheduled for October 22.
7. The CAB members discussed CAB Resolution 2011-004, **Distribution of CAB Meeting Materials** (Attachment 3). Ms. Brown noted that the CAB Bylaws require distribution of meeting minutes to CAB members and the Program Director. She recommended that:
 - Distribution by the CAB be limited to that stated in the Bylaws, and
 - The staff should perform additional distribution (if any), including additional distribution required to comply with Corporation for Public Broadcasting regulations and recommendations.

Mr. Redd moved to disapprove the resolution. The motion passed, six in favor, two against.

8. The CAB members discussed CAB Resolution 2011-005, **Interactions with Banned Personnel** (Attachment 4).
 - Mr. Redd recommended that the resolution be modified to request that the CAB be notified of banning actions.
 - Ms. Brown noted that Mr. Benjamin had asked Mr. Hughes and Mr. West to comment on a draft of the resolution before he submitted it to the CAB, and said that she objected to that action. Mr. Benjamin responded that his request for comment was done to ensure that the resolution was “right” before it was submitted to the CAB.
 - Ms. Arnwine said that the resolution could provide valuable guidance to (current and future) CAB members who are not familiar with the banning issue.

Mr. Garey moved to table the resolution for discussion at the next meeting. The motion passed.

9. Discussion of listener comments (Attachment 5) was tabled, for two reasons:
 - The late hour.
 - The comments were submitted by Mr. Barysh, who is under a banning order. As noted at the previous CAB meeting, it is unclear if Mr. Barysh is permitted to submit, and if the CAB is permitted to consider, comments.
10. The CAB members agreed that the next meeting would be at 7 PM on Monday, September 19, 2011.

11. Mr. Young asked about applications for membership on the 2012 CAB. Mr. Redd replied that, contrary to expectations, they are not available.
12. Mr. Young recognized the staff, some of which are doing a full time job despite being on half time. Mr. Diaz concurred, noting that he and N'Kenge Toure have pointed out that it is the unionized staff that is at half time; management and contractors are full time. Mr. Diaz stated that he thinks that the budget pain should be spread more equally.
13. The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 PM.

DRAFT

September 2011 Meeting of the WPFW Community Advisory Board

Agenda

1. Adoption of agenda
2. Adoption of notes from previous meeting
3. General manager comments
4. WPFW Retreat (F. Johnson)
5. Old business:
 - a. House party fundraiser status
6. New business:
 - a. Discussion of draft resolution 2011-004, **Distribution of CAB Meeting Materials**
 - b. Discussion of draft resolution 2011-005, **Interactions with Banned Personnel**
7. Listener comments
 - a. Comments deferred from previous meeting
 - b. New comments
8. Set date for next meeting (nominal date: Monday, November 21, 2011)
9. Adjourn

Notes from WPFW Community Advisory Board (CAB) Meeting

7:00 PM, 18 July 2011, at WPFW, 2390 Champlain St. NW 2nd Floor, Washington, DC 20009

Participants:

CAB members:

Alvernon Garey, Hyattsville, MD
Carolyn Brown, Forestville, MD
David Vega, Takoma Park, MD
Frank Johnson, College Park, MD
Jeremiah Lowery, Washington, DC
Kathy Allen, Washington, DC
Perry Redd, Washington, DC
Ron Benjamin, Greenbelt, MD

WPFW staff members:

John Hughes, General Manager
Robert West, Financial Manager

Guests:

Benito Diaz, Washington, DC
Gloria Turner, Fort Washington, MD

Notes:

1. Ms. Brown, noting that a quorum was present, called the meeting to order at 7 PM. She apologized for her recent lack of engagement, explaining that there was a death in her family.
2. The CAB members discussed and approved the meeting agenda (Attachment 1).
3. The members discussed and approved the notes from the 21 March 2011 meeting (Attachment 2).
4. Mr. West explained that he was standing in for Mr. Hughes, who was in a relocation committee meeting. Referring to the General Manager's Report (Attachment 3), Mr. West said:
 - The station retreat, to which staff, programmers, LSB members, and CAB members will be invited, is tentatively scheduled for mid-August. Final scheduling is pending coordination with the meeting facilitator. The retreat will probably be held at Busboys and Poets. Details will follow.
 - There will be no fund drive this summer. The fall drive will be held in September, and will have a goal of \$500K, required due to the upcoming station move.
 - In response to a question from Mr. Benjamin, Mr. West said that the American University tower lead abatement project paperwork is on the University president's desk for signature. Once he approves, the lead abatement contractor will schedule the work. Because the schedule is still undefined, WPFW has put plans for relocating the transmitter on hold.
 - The \$105,068 surplus shown in the General Manager's Report is against the budget, not against cash flow.

Attachment 2

- As noted in the General Manager's Report, the vehicle donation program is working well.
- Mr. Redd asked whom he should contact regarding adding cell phone donation (Mobile Giving Foundation) capability to the WPFW Web site. Mr. West, noting that he is on the Web site committee, asked Mr. Redd to email him at West.Robert@wpfw.org.

5. The CAB members reviewed the CAB's responsibilities as stated in the CAB Bylaws:

- Annually reviewing WPFW's programming goals;
- Evaluating WPFW's progress towards these goals;
- Reviewing the impact on the community of significant policy decisions made by the station;
- Assisting the station in being responsive to community needs.

It was noted that the first three items could not readily be undertaken until the programming goals and programming-related policies are developed and/or concurred with by the permanent Program Director (PD). Mr. Diaz reported that the Local Station Board (LSB) will have a special meeting on PD selection on July 27. The CAB members decided that it was improbable that the PD would be ready to discuss the items in September, and therefore scheduled the discussions for the November CAB meeting.

Ms. Brown recommended that the fourth item be fulfilled by having CAB members participate in LSB Outreach and Development Committee events.

Mr. Benjamin noted that there are, at present, no special items planned for the September CAB meeting. Mr. Johnson said that items may arise as a result of the strategic planning to be conducted during the station retreat.

6. Ms. Turner reported that the second annual U Street Jam will be on November 12, from 8 PM to 1 AM.
7. Mr. Redd noted that the Poetry Slam at the Carter Barron was well-attended, and that WPFW had provided publicity for the event. He wondered if the event could be used to raise funds for the station.
8. The CAB members modified and approved CAB Resolution 2011-002, Removal of Marcus Jetter (Attachment 4). *Editor's note:* CAB Resolution 2011-001, modified as directed in Resolution 2011-002, is attached (Attachment 5).
9. Ms. Brown provided the background for the mid-term membership issue:
 - Mr. Turner says that he submitted an application for membership on the 2011 CAB.
 - Ms. Pope says that she has no record of the application.
 - Mr. Turner did not realize that he was not a 2011 CAB member until he saw his name listed as a guest in meeting notes. He would like to become a full member.

Mr. Benjamin noted that the CAB Bylaws would have to be modified to permit mid-term membership. He recommended that rather than changing the Bylaws, the CAB should modify its operating rules to permit guests, such as Mr. Turner, to participate in CAB discussions on an equal basis with full members. Other members disagreed, saying that uncontrolled discussions could result in chaotic meetings.

Mr. Redd moved that the CAB accept Mr. Turner as a full member, retroactive to January. Mr. Vega concurred. Ms. Brown pointed out that the CAB could not, by itself, accept Mr. Turner, since staff concurrence is required for membership. Mr. Redd modified his motion to retroactively accept Mr.

Turner as a full member, pending management approval. The motion failed, one in favor, four against, one abstention. Mr. Vega explained that he abstained because, although he disagrees with the motion in principle, he values Mr. Turner and did not want to vote against his membership.

10. The members discussed draft CAB Resolution 2011-003, **Programming Goals**. Ms. Brown pointed out that Mr. Benjamin drafted this document and presented it at an LSB programming meeting without input from the CAB. This was the second such occurrence. Mr. Benjamin responded that the distribution was an attempt to get the resolution right before it was presented to the CAB, and that the email clearly identified the resolution as a draft. Mr. Benjamin then explained that he received some comments from Mr. Daughtry after he had submitted the original draft resolution. Mr. Benjamin proposed a modified version of the resolution (Attachment 6), which he said incorporates the spirit of Mr. Daughtry's comments. Mr. Diaz said that he does not believe that Mr. Daughtry's comments are properly reflected in the modified resolution. Mr. Johnson made a motion to table action on the resolution pending review by the permanent PD. The CAB approved the motion.
11. Mr. Vega said that his house party to benefit WPFW is back on. He had discussed the date for the party with Ms. Jordan, who had recommended delaying it to October to avoid conflicts with the (September) fund drive. Mr. Hughes, who had joined the meeting, raised the possibility of making the party a pre-drive introductory event. At Mr. Vega's request, the CAB members voted on holding the party before or after the fund drive. The vote was two, for before the drive, three, for after the drive. Mr. Hughes said that he had just come back from a public broadcasting fundraising meeting at which house parties were endorsed as a fundraising technique that also helps to disperse the station name (i.e., raise the station's profile in communities that have not been the site of other station-sponsored events).
12. The CAB members discussed the comments (Attachment 7) submitted by listeners Alan Barysh and Dick VandenHeusen.

Mr. Barysh is under a banning order from the station. Mr. Diaz said that the CDs donated by Mr. Barysh were offered for sale during the recent inventory sale. At Mr. Benjamin's recommendation, Mr. Hughes said that he will contact Mr. Barysh, via counsel, to advise him of the status of the CDs.

Mr. West explained that Mr. Barysh's banning order specified that:

- Mr. Barysh is banned from contacting station personnel, and that
- The order will be re-evaluated after six months.

Mr. West said that Mr. Barysh continued to call him despite the banning order, and therefore that Mr. West extended the order indefinitely. Mr. Hughes and West believed that the sole contact by the station with Mr. Barysh was through the counsel. Ms. Brown said that the CAB secretary provided documents to Mr. Barysh despite the ban, and asked if the CAB was considered a representative of the station. Mr. Hughes said "Yes."

Ms. Brown moved that Mr. Barysh be removed from the CAB mailing list. Mr. Benjamin opposed the motion, saying that the mailing list serves as an alternative to public posting of CAB information on the WPFW Web site, which is not being done despite being required by Corporation for Public Broadcasting regulations. Further discussion of Ms. Brown's motion and Mr. Barysh's comments was tabled pending legal counsel input regarding the scope of contact that is prohibited by the banning order.

Mr. West and Mr. Hughes said that each of them had contacted Mr. VandenHeusen and told him that WPFW runs Public Service Announcements (PSAs) during Democracy Now! because:

- The station is required to run PSAs, and
- Democracy Now!'s popularity makes it a particularly effective PSA vehicle.

Attachment 2

The CAB members decided that Mr. West's and Mr. Hughes' explanations were correct and adequate responses to Mr. VandenHeusen's comment.

13. The next CAB meeting will be at 7 PM on Monday, September 19, 2011.
14. The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Resolution CAB 2011-004

Distribution of CAB Meeting Materials

BECAUSE:

The Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) requires notice of open meetings (such as CAB meetings) to be “communicated by letter, e-mail, fax, phone, or in person to any individuals who have specifically requested to be notified”;

and BECAUSE:

The CPB also “recommends that stations make copies of the minutes of all open meetings available to the public on the station Web site, by mail, or at the station's office upon request”;

RESOLVED:

1. The CAB directs the CAB secretary to distribute CAB meeting materials to all CAB members, and to all other individuals who have expressed an interest in CAB activities and have not requested removal from the CAB mailing list.
2. The CAB recommends that CAB meeting materials be posted on the WPFW Web site.

Resolution CAB 2011-005
Interactions with Banned Personnel

BECAUSE:

Banning is an extraordinary action implemented by WPFW staff only when deemed necessary to protect station property, staff, volunteers, and/or programmers;

and BECAUSE:

The Corporation for Public Broadcasting requires public broadcasting stations to “Allow all persons to attend any open meeting ... except as would be reasonably required to maintain a safe meeting environment”;

RESOLVED:

1. Persons who are banned from WPFW premises shall not be permitted to attend Community Advisory Board (CAB) meetings.
2. Persons who are banned from contacting WPFW staff, volunteers, and/or programmers by telephone shall not be permitted to call CAB members unless agreed to in writing by the member(s) involved.
3. Persons who are banned shall be permitted to submit listener comments for consideration by the CAB via mail, fax, or email. The General Manager need not personally respond to such comments (as would otherwise be required by CAB Resolution 2009-003) if the listener is promptly provided with a copy of the notes or minutes of the meeting(s) at which the comment(s) was (were) discussed.

Listener Comments
September 2011

From Alan Barysh

1) There are still no disclaimers on the health food infomercials i.e. the shows that are hosted by the woman calling her self "Dr." Amen and others. This was supposed to have been done. These shows now are blatantly commercials for the guests who all have a product to sell!

2) While it is good to have a lot of shows during Ramadan (Spelling?)-it would be good to have other shows on other religious holidays. Yes the Muslim religion is under a racist attack by U\$ imperialism-fundamentalist Muslim groups like Zionist groups are no friends of the oppressed and this should be mentioned. There is no show on the dial in this area that takes a basic Atheist stand! Why is this so? While I am not an Atheist - I think we should run SunSarah Taylor's WBAI show on WPFW. You have had Buddhists, Rastas Non Zionist Jews, Zionist Light Jews, Muslims of all sorts and any number of other faiths-why not Atheists?

3)When the next fund drive is over can you give pledge begging a rest for a week or so? I speak for the listener who pledges and pays on time-it's like the boy who cried wolf! Someday those of us with limited means will limit our pledges-then you will have some thing to cry about!

4) How do I appeal my banning?

5)When can I get a hard copy of the ban?

6) With the election coming soon do you think it would possible for WPFW and Pacifica to refrain from being Democratic Party Cheerleaders? After all this is a charitable station- and can not endorse any candidate-disclaimers need to be made on all talk shows with a political nature.

6) Lastly when having Dick Gregory on you shoe as a guest do you think your host/hostess could keep him focused on one topic at a time? I think our elder leader is getting senile!