

KPFT Local Station Board meeting Minutes

December 19, 2018 — revised draft of 2019-01-03

Midtown Bar and Grill

415 W. Gray, Houston, TX 77019

I. Chair K.C. Sinclair called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.

II. Staff Recognition.

Bill Crosier and Rick Pothoff wanted to give the floor to Rhonda Garner. The chair said due to excessive ab-

sences, she was not on the board, and would not be recognized.

Joseph Davis, Bill Crosier, and Rick Pothoff acknowledged the work of Patrick Hoyt.

Anisa acknowledged the

work of Bob Gartner. The Secretary requested that all other recognitions be in writing (for accurate copy).

III. Roll Call.

Chair Sinclair asked members to **describe in one word that which would describe Ray Hill** (who died recently)

or just say "here/present."

Below, in column one is the response to roll call.

1. Alán Alán Apurim	"revolutionary"	YES	YES
2. Wesley Bethune	here	YES	YES
3. Adriana Casenave	"resilience"	YES	YES
4. Bill Crosier	here	NO	NO
5. Joseph Davis	¿late?	YES	YES
6. Elayne Duncan	absent	—	—
7. Anisa Faruqi	here	YES	YES
8. Robert Gartner	"disappointed"	YES	YES
9. Wally James	here	NO	NO
10. Jim Kraflka	absent	—	—
11. DeWayne Lark	present	YES	YES
12. Adrienne LaViolette	here (late)	NO	NO
13. Mike Lewis	"mentor"	NO	NO
14. Matthew Moore	here	NO	NO
15. Susie Moreno	present	YES	YES
16. Vinisha PatelAdams	"talkative"	YES	YES
17. Ben Perodeau	here	YES	YES
18. Rick Pothoff	"rabble-rouser"	NO	NO
19. Nancy Saibara-Naritomi	"loveable activist"	YES	YES
20. K.C. Sinclair	"leader"	YES	
21. Rita Washington	here		YES
22. Ted Weisgal	"cheerful"	YES	YES
23. Vaniecia Williams	absent	—	—

24. Don Freeman (Non-voting) absent
25. Egberto Willies (pending) absent/excused

Above, in column two is the roll call vote sustaining the ruling of the chair that the seat held by Rhonda Garner

is now vacant. Bill Crosier raised a point of order regarding the absences of Rhonda Garner and Deb Shafto.

The chair was sustained by a vote of 13-6.

Above, in column three is the 13-6 vote affirming the seating of Egberto Willies.

THE SECRETARY IS REQUESTING THAT MEMBERS OF THE LSB REVIEW THEIR VOTES AND PROVIDE

CHANGES IF THEIR VOTES ARE NOT POSTED ACCURATELY. PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE IS AN AUDIO

RECORDING OF THE ABOVE, BUT RATHER THAN SPEND AN EXCESSIVE AMOUNT OF TIME ON UN-

DISPUTED VOTES, THE SECRETARY REQUESTS THAT MEMBERS HELP IN EXPEDITING THIS MATTER.

K.C. Sinclair called the meeting to order at 7:03pm and began with Staff Recognitions.

"Bobbie, Bryan, Markisha, and Don" were recognized for organizing and publicizing the writing contest.

Don was recognized for helping with reading, K.C. for helping keep order (but she noted she's not Staff),

Ted intervened on further recognitions that they be submitted in writing (for accurate record).

Joseph Davis said

"As Patrick's here I'd like to recognize him and thank him as he's moving on to another job, I'd like to thank Patrick

for the years of service he's provided KPFT, we appreciate it." Bob Gartner was thanked for all the outside work and

maintenance he's provided the station, and for early-morning broadcasts

At 7:10 **Roll Call** began. At 7:14 Bill Crosier read a "resolution" concerning a PNB declaration concerning absences

and LSB members' attending by phone. The Chair K.C. did not accept the point-of-order, and stated that irregard-

less of telephonic participation rulings, Deb Shafto and Rhonda Garner were dismissed because the LSB did not vote

to give them excused absences and the Bylaws do not provide for excused absences when both gave reasons as being

for a terminally ill family member.

K.C. Sinclair read a prepared statement, "This motion requires us to re-seat Board members who were removed for

having three unexcused absences — this is against the bylaws — this Board three times did not vote to excuse their

absences, and set to remove these members. Even if I were to say the first motion for telephonic participation

passed by the PNB was in order, Deb Shafto and Rhonda Garner do not qualify under that

motion as they both asked for excused absences due to terminally ill family members. I do not write or vote on the PNB motion, and it is not my fault that this situation was not included, and it is not my right to expand the qualifications in the motion. Because the motion forces us to violate the bylaws, I do not recognize any part of the motion as substantive meaning. On this issue, too, I have been in constant communication with Nancy Sorden and Ford Greene; I have sent them numerous pieces of evidence for them to consider, I have not received a response for two weeks on this issue. In the absence of that I am ruling in accord with our bylaws. Both Rhonda and Deb missed half of last year's meetings.

They were dealing with unimaginably bad situations, and it led to them being unable to serve as present and participating Board members."

At 7:22 Rhonda Garner was called to order a second and third time.

At 7:23 Ben Perodeau moved to have management remove Rhonda Garner. Rick and Bill spoke against K.C. and

the sustaining of removal. Alán Alán and Adriana cited the bylaws in support of removal of Rhonda.

A roll-call vote proceeded, Motion **passed** 11-6.

K.C. Sinclair took stacked speakers for and against seating of Egberto Willies. **Passed** 11-7.

Adrienne LaViolette: Point of order "PNB says the meeting is null and void..." Chair: You are out of order.

At 7:38: Dewayne spoke of PNB violations of their own bylaws. A roll-call vote 13-5 sustained the chair on calling

a vote, a vote to seat Egberto **passed** 12-3. 10-2 vote excused his absence due to late notice to him.

At 7:45 in the meeting, the following five individuals, protesting the removal of Rhonda Garner and the seating of

Egberto Willies, left the meeting: Bill Crosier, Wally James, Adrienne LaViolette, Matthew Moore, and Rick Pothoff

IV. Agenda Approval. [5]

Placed before the body by the chair, the agenda was **approved** without objection.

V. LSB Officer Elections [until finished, interrupted by Public Comment]

- A. Chair

Ted Weisgal was nominated by Nancy Saibara-Naritome and **elected** chair without opposition.

In taking the chair from K.C. Sinclair, Ted passed the gavel to Vinisha PatelAdams. Some members raised

points of order regarding the passing of the gavel. DeWayne Lark spoke up and affirmed that this was a

legitimate decision by the chair. 7:50pm: Vinisha PatelAdams chaired the remainder of the meeting.

- B. Vice-Chair
Mike Lewis was nominated by Ben Perodeau and received 4 votes
K.C. Sinclair was nominated by DeWayne Lark, received 11 votes and was **elected**
Vice-Chair
- C. Secretary
DeWayne moved to extend opening and closing statements to 2 minutes. His motion **failed** 3-6.
Alán Alán Apurim was nominated by Joseph Davis and **elected** secretary without opposition.
- D. Treasurer
Joseph Davis nominated P.K. McCary. She accepted and was **elected** treasurer without objection

VI. Public Comment. [Time Certain: 8-8:30pm]

- Larry Snellings has been involved in KPFT since 1970. He donated a truck that brought in approximately \$12,000 in a recent KPFT fundraiser. Rumors that he did not own the truck are false. He'll sue anyone claiming otherwise. He had a \$15,000 truck to donate and a check. Based on the disorder that he saw at the meeting, his offers are withdrawn.
- Patrick Hoyt told the board what is going on at KPFT and particularly with Don Freeman. "Don is consolidating his power for his own purposes. I worked every day from 5am except when I was in the hospital. Larry Winters was also IMHO, thrown under the bus. This week there was a meeting that I could not attend. Don got upset with me because I could not attend the meeting. I had to edit the Thom Hartmann Show. Don fired me for being disrespectful. Don is too authoritarian for this job. He was very unfair with Wendy Schroell, too."
- Brian Sanchez: "We have lots of projects that I'd like help with. They include art work that is on the walls of the station. We have other events; and if you have ways to raise money let me know. We're doing well with the silent drive with almost \$11,000, compared with \$7,000 last year. We're doing well with renewals by sending thank-you letters. We also plan to work on the Bayou City Art Festival and raise money for KPFT. We will need help with this project. We have \$100,000 in corporate-matching to tap-into. We have a writing contest going on. Contact me, brian@kpft.org"
- P.K. McCary: "As a Black woman, I must say that KPFT has not been a safe place for people of color and marginalized people. I'm reading in a book club, and we will discuss *Becoming* by Michelle Obama.

Racism hurts those who are racist and those attacked. It's when you are unfair to one group of people over another, that's the truth about what's happening at KPFT. When Mr. Crosier was talking, I said lightly, 'That's gaslighting', and three people behind me overheard me (nobody else heard me), and called out, 'Chair, Chair!'. But that's not me, but they're willing to destroy me or my reputation, but unfortunately they can't do it; I've built relationships that go beyond what anyone can imagine. I was told I was to blame for Obidike getting fired, by a White woman. But Joseph Kaye stood up for me. The people who were here tonight are mostly White ... who get together and make decisions without investigation, without talking to anybody else, and they manipulate and distort the problems we face. This station is not being intentional in its outreach for people of color.

I helped pass a budget. I worked with difficult people. When I was a kid I was told, 'Don't pick up any bad habits'; we still could not break the rules! Make rules fair, and let's eradicate White racism here."

- Wendy Schroell: "I don't know what happened before I got here. I have been hearing a lot of rumors about my termination. I was fired for no reason. I was told I was fired for no reason. My contract was just terminated. I was told it was about the voter list and the fact is that I decided to run for the LSB out of extreme devotion to Pacifica. I would vote based on the issues. There was no rule that I could not run, and my predecessor did so. Lots of staff with access to the member list have been on the Board. I'm surprised that I had not heard from Ted Weisgal or Bob Gartner when I was fired. I don't steal from this foundation. Don gave me no due-process. Since I came back to work here, I've stayed out of the politics of KPFT."

- Bobby Modad: "I've been a part of the station for too long. The people who walked out of here tonight walked out on the people they are supposed to serve. If it's gotten factionalized, I don't care. I suggested years ago, that if a person is spoken about, invite them to the next meeting. Just because people speak, doesn't mean that you've heard the truth. The means should not justify the end. Those who threaten not to give money are being childish. Today we were off the air for three hours. We need to work together."

8:33pm: A 15-minute break ensued before the meeting resumed.

9:03pm: Voting was held for the contested Vice-Chair position between Mike and K.C., who won 11-4.

VII. Minutes Approval:

- A. November LSB 2018-11-14
The minutes of the November meeting were **approved** with the request by Adriana that the Committee of Inclusion report be added to the minutes. The minutes of the portion of the November meeting held in Executive Session were tabled until this LSB meets again in Executive Session at the end of this meeting.

VII. Consent Items:

- A. Governance: Postponed to January

VIII. Standing and Special Committee Reports:

- A. CAB Update
K.C. Sinclair reported that a new chair was elected by the CAB and will hopefully be at the LSB's January meeting.
- B. Committee Report: Question and Answer
 1. Building Committee. Bob Gartner reported that things are being done without his knowledge.
There is landscaping being done in the backyard. Some of his plantings were destroyed and he may not be able to participate in this committee in the future.
 2. Fundraising. DeWayne Lark reported. Gordon Quan, Nancy McAfee, and Pat Greer have agreed to work with Ted Weisgal. They are doing a fundraiser featuring restaurants of different ethnicities.

X. Pacifica National Board and Committee Reports:

- Adriana Casenave: "The PNB is violating the bylaws and ignoring the advice of counsel. They violate the bylaws in trying to amend the bylaws. It is difficult to be a minority director when they have all the votes.
When DeWayne Lark speaks, they lower the volume and he can barely be heard." DeWayne feels that anything he would say "would be redundant." "The PNB's majority, including Bill Crosier, is corrupt."
- Joseph Davis: "The breaking of rules by these folks is standard procedure."
- Adriana Casenave: "Five PNB members have a question for council. To ask we only need three. We've waited months for an answer and received none. A number of the national board members have concerns about the election procedure. They would like to get answers from Alma Viscarra."

XI. Interim General Manager's Report:

Don Freeman: "Special Projects in Development."

XII. Reports on Old Business

- A. Community Calendar PSAs (2/14) Bob Gartner, DeWayne: Record and air them

in accordance with the

motion approved by this body. Bob Gartner: "No, I haven't recorded this. I didn't know it was my responsibility. And now I can't go to the station."

- B. Program Council subcommittee (2/14) Joseph, DeWayne, **Deb Shafto**: DeWayne Lark was to host LSB-

- member meeting 10/22 at 6 PM, but "**no progress.**"

- C. LSB Fundraising Committee (est. 3/14) DeWayne: Meeting on 10/22 at 8:30 PM (See VIII B. 2.)

- D. Records updated on kpftx.org and binder (6/13) [Ted]: "Get audio recordings up on kpftx.org" **Done.**

- E. Volunteer PSAs (6/13) Vaniecia Patel: Get them recorded and on air. Absent. **No report.**

- F. Int'l youth programming (6/13) Nancy Saibara-Naritomi: reach out to HISD communications department.

- No success** in reaching students.

- G. Bill Crosier Investigation (8/8) Nancy, DeWayne, Rick, Wesley, Alán Alán: Nancy Saibara-Naritomi,

- send a report or motions to LSB. **It has not happened.**

- H. Writing Contest (10/10) K.C. Sinclair: organize, get PSA up, collect entries, find judge. **Done.**

- J. Executive Session Motion (11/14) DeWayne Lark: K.C. needs to e-mail Pacifica Executive Director

- Maxi Jackson with information. He is unwilling to act on this based on a recent motion by the PNB nullifying all of our motions.

XIII. New Business.

A. K.C. Sinclair:

I move that **the KPFT LSB hold a monthly happy hour with the goals of bringing new listeners to KPFT, raising money for the station, and creating live specials to be sold as podcasts.** Details are:

1. KC will facilitate the event each month with a different LSB member partner.

2. Each month, the happy hours will take place on the third Thursday at different venues in different parts of the city.

3. Happy hours will be co-hosted by one music and one non-music programmer chosen by KC, the GM, and the partner board member of the month. Selected programs will provide programming for the event, which will be recorded and sold as a live special, when appropriate.

4. A \$10 cover will be charged, and donations and memberships will be accepted.

Motion **passed** without objection. Ben will help with January; Susie, February; Vi, March; Anisa, April.

5. Alán Alán suggested social media NextDoor.com as a city-wide free publicity vehicle.

B. Ted Weisgal:

I move that **we, the LSB, request of management as much relevant data as possible that reflects the out-**

come of the most recent fund drive. Most importantly, we request the total income for each program during each day of the drive and/or drive totals and the expense of premiums that were provided to donors for each program. This data shall be referred through the LSB to the Management Selection and Review Committee and any other committee of the LSB requesting it.
Motion **passed** without objection.

At this point in the meeting, 9:55pm, the body voted, without objection, to go into Executive Session.

The following motions (C-I) will carry over to the January meeting:

C. Bob Gartner:

I move that **the KPFT LSB recommend on behalf of Mr. Don Freeman to the Pacifica Executive Director, consideration for a salary increase**, effective immediately and retroactively, for his diligent efforts at being not only an effective KPFT's Program Director and particularly for his excellent performance for being at the helm as interim KPFT General Manager, especially since the departure of Jerry Sumrall. Furthermore, consideration for this motion/matter should now be made because at the present time it is not known when, or if, the choice of a permanent General Manager will occur.

D. Nancy Saibara-Naritomi:

Whereas the KPFT LSB has had almost 2 decades or more history of not being given access of financial documents such as: 1) bank accounts' statements, 2) actual expense bills, 3) contracts, 4) donations, 5) grants' copies of checks, deposit slip, 6) bequests' copies of checks, deposit slip; 7) commissions; 8) premiums unsent; 9) premiums sent; 10) sustainer-ship deposits, 11) salaries. **The KPFT LSB recommends that this information be made available to the LSB** (with omissions by blackening out of donors', sustainers', companies (if requested by the companies or a signed agreement to allow or not), **for financial transparency.**

E. Saibara-Naritomi:

Motion for the LSB to have donations and expenses posted with: 1) date pledged, 2) date processed, 3) amount, 4) premium, 5) name of show given credit, 6) date of sustainer shipment, 7) expense description, 8) photo of bill, 9) date of payment.

F. Saibara-Naritomi:

Motion for the LSB to have an intermission after Public Comment, or if there is no public comment, at 8:30 pm, the approximate half point of the meeting, in order to use the restroom without

missing the meeting

and to be able to converse with the Public and with each other, to relax, dance, sing, and share snacks together.

G. Saibara-Naritomi:

Motion for the LSB to change the Public Comment to a time which may be more convenient (for the

Public to return home sooner to prepare for the next days' work, and who may in summer take advantage of

sunset twilight in driving home).

H. Saibara-Naritomi:

Motion for amendment to the KPFT Standing Rules:

1. Article IV , section 1, Limits to on-air Appearances Addition: The exception to this rule is participation

in the KPFT LSB Report to the Listeners Show.

2. Article 3, sec. 6, LSB Members' Required Participation in one local KPFT LSB Committee: Add: The

failure to do so is cause for removal from the LSB, since the work of the LSB is dependent on committee work.

I. Bill Crosier:

Motion on Bullying, Harassment, Slander, and Intimidation of LSB members:

Whereas, we have experienced repeated and serious bullying, insults, harassment, name-calling, slander, other

abuse, and attempts to intimidate KPFT Local Station Board members, both in LSB meetings and committee meetings, and

Whereas, such egregious behavior often uses lies and misleading information in attempts to defame and/or in-

sult LSB members, sometimes in attempts to provoke reactions which are then seized upon to further attack the

victims of the abuse, and

Whereas, such behavior has resulted in resignations of good LSB members who have been working effectively

to help KPFT, a number of whom were not even the targets of the bullying tactics but who did not want to be part

of a Board that tolerated or encouraged this, and

Whereas, in addition to LSB members, members of the public have also been allowed, if not encouraged, to

similarly engage in this behavior during public comment, with few or no limitations, and

Whereas, neither free speech principles nor Roberts Rules of Order allow such despicable actions, and in fact vi-

olations of decorum are prohibited by Roberts Rules for all attendees at meetings, whether they are taken by

board members or the public, and

Whereas, the LSB Secretary has chosen to ignore Roberts Rules concerning what should go into minutes, even

though LSB members have pointed out that the minutes should only reflect actions taken by the LSB and not de-

tails of debate and certainly not public comment, and even the PNB Parliamentarian has confirmed that only actions taken by the board belong in the minutes, and

Whereas, putting defamatory comments about individuals into the minutes, which are posted publicly on the Internet, and which are inappropriate in the minutes, is an additional act of defamation, leading to additional legal and financial liability, and

Whereas, such behavior opens us up to lawsuits for allowing these actions to continue with only occasional mild admonishments, but without any effective measures to stop them, and

Whereas, these aggressive, unethical (and perhaps illegal) and anti-Pacifican actions have given the KPFT LSB a very bad reputation, have run off donors, and have made it even more difficult to establish or continue effective working relationships on the LSB, making the LSB even less effective in doing things to help the station, and

Whereas, these actions have contributed to the distrust and overall dysfunction of the KPFT LSB, therefore

Be it Resolved, that:

1. Such actions will not be tolerated, whether initiated by LSB members or others, including those participating during public comment.
2. Such actions will be grounds for immediate ejection from the meeting, for the duration of the entire meeting, of any person engaging in such actions.
3. Derogatory comments about individuals will not be included in the minutes of any public meeting, nor in executive session.
4. Comments made during public comment, and all personal attacks made during other times will be removed from past minutes, including those posted online, and shall be removed within one week from the date of this motion.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 9:55pm the body agreed to move into Executive Session to consider the Executive Session minutes of the November meeting. The minutes are **approved** pending the revision that included the statement by Adriana regarding Bill Crosier.

Ben Perodeau moved that all threats against board members from LaViolette/Moore/Crosier be collected and forwarded to the Pacifica attorney with the question: can individual members sue other members and what is our liability?

Ben Perodeau moved that the question be called on Adriana's substitute motion.

Passed.

Adriana Casenave offered a substitute motion: Because of the written threats from some LSB members individually, we ask the Pacifica Foundation counsel to explain our individual liabilities as LSB members. **Passed.**

XIII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:20pm.