

Draft Minutes WBAI LSB Meeting in special session 7 pm ET, Wednesday, 7-26-23

Attending: Rachel Barr, Scottye Battle, Doc Shya Bey, John Brinkley, Jack De Palma, Jim Dingeman, Eleanor Elizabeth Forman, Dee Dee Halleck, Maxine Harrison-Gallman, Bounubti Kamentou, R. Paul Martin, Basir MChawi, Katherine O'Sullivan, Shawn Rhodes, James Sagurton, Sharonne Salaam, Max Schmid, Marilyn Vogt-Downey, Michael D.D. White

Absent: Priscilla Cancar, Jack DeVine, Hazel Pinder, Andre Ward

Also present: Berthold Reimers, Linda Perry, Kay Williams

**Final Agenda WBAI Local Station Board ("LSB")
7:00 PM, Wednesday, July 26, 2023 Meeting Remote Participation Meeting Via Zoom**

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. Discussion With WBAI Management Regarding Station Fundraising (until Public Comment with possible resumption afterward):
 - a. Introduction by General Manager
 - b. Discussion with Management Participation
7. Public Comment. (30 minutes, 2 minutes maximum per speaker before next in queue to speak. Must always begin no later than 8:00 PM.)
8. Adjourn no later than 8:30 PM. (ET)

7:05 pm ET Meeting called to order by Vice Chair, Michael DD White, acting as Chair, as Dee Dee Halleck had stated she could not be present for the start of the meeting.

Motion (EEF) To lift the chat restrictions since this is a special meeting.

Point of Order (RPM) This motion is out of order. First we must approve the agenda.

7:11 pm ET Motion (Jack de Palma) To adopt the agenda. Seonded by John Brinkley. Objected to by R. Paul Martin

Amendment (R. Paul) To strike item 5 re accepting minutes because the minutes that were sent were for a committee not for the LSB and for a wrong date. and to change the wording under item 6 and 6B from "Discussion with Staff Participation," to "Discussion with Management Participation" as Berthold

originally requested and as the original motion was worded. Seconded by Jim Dingeman. Objected to by Eleanor Elizabeth Forman.

Amendment (Eleanor Elizabeth Forman) To change the wording under items 6 and 6B to "Discussion with Management, Staff, and Listeners;" open the chat; and extend the time of the meeting for whoever who wanted to stay to finish it. Seconded by Rachel Barr.

Acting Chair, Michael D.D. White, ruled the second amendment out of order until we dealt with the first amendment; and, because it covered multiple changes. He called for a valid second to a simplified amendment relevant to changing the wording of item 6 and 6B. Rachel Barr seconded the simplified amendment.

Point of Order (James Sauron) Since he was the person who proposed the motion which created this special meeting and the wording of his original motion was a meeting with management and LSB, then Eleanor's amendment would constitute a broadening of the purpose of the meeting which is against Robert's Rules. He called for the Acting Chair to rule the amendment out of order.

The Acting Chair (MDD White) ruled Eleanor's amendment out of order.

Appeal the Ruling of the Chair (EEF) Seconded.

Failed by roll call vote 8 yeses, 4 nos, 4 abstain.

The Committee then discussed the amendment on the floor.

The Acting Chair asked if there were any objections to R. Paul's amendment to the agenda. EEF objected.

Motion (James Sagurton) To separate the minutes question from the changing of the terminology question. Seconded.

Motion (JS) To strike the minutes. Seconded. Passed without objection.

The Committee continued to discuss the amendment.

7:46 pm ET Motion (James Sagurton) To approve R. Paul's amendment. Seconded. Eleanor objected. Roll call vote was taken and R Paul's amendment passed with 12 yeses, 2 nos, and 4 abstentions.

Then Jack de Palma's original motion to adopt the agenda passed without objection.

7:47pm ET Roll Call, results as above

7:54 pm ET Motion (Jim Dingeman) To excuse absences as this was not a mandatory meeting. Seconded. Objected to by Eleanor Elizabeth Forman who withdrew her objection when she asked if anyone else supported her objection and no one did. So, excusing absences passed without objection.

7:55 pm ET General Manager's Report began – Berthold Reimers

Highlights:

The GM wants the LSB to form committees around fundraising, 3 members per committee, as follows:

1. PSA's – can and need to make \$300,000 per month. Should be dedicated to our major vendors. Underwriting is slightly different. If Leonard Lopate interviews an author with a new

book. Not only should the book become a premium but the publishing company should be approached to pay for a short PSA to advertise their existence and their support of the Leonard Lopate program.

2. Premiums – 95% of our income. It should be done in this way: the producer contacts a guest and schedules an interview. Notifies the Board Op. A PSA is made to advertise this program. The recording of the interview becomes the premium.
3. Volunteers – Need to bring volunteers back into the station. There are still 5 working lines. Need to replace the call center. In the meantime, he is waiting for our lawyer to work on a contract with the call center to pay the monthly, plus a portion of the backlog what is owed every month while they continue to function to take donations.
4. Grant writing – He will be working with a volunteer grant writer over the next 3 months.

The Board discussed this request, but no motions were forthcoming.

8:02 pm ET Public Comment began.

Highlights

- Why was the FY23 budget never approved?
- If do not have money to pay for premiums, maybe whoever offers the premium should offer to pay for the premium. Plus, if offer a premium, need to make sure it gets delivered in a timely fashion.
- Millennials and Gen Z need to know how a particular topic, nuclear, impending autocracy, is relevant to their lives.
- This should be “Labor Summer” on WBAI, SAGAFTRA, plus our own NYC retirees fighting for the right to maintain original Medicare and not be forced into Medicare Advantage.
- We need some reporters in the streets recording some of the protests going on.
- Need an Asian outreach program
- Managers should go pro bono during the monetary crisis.

8:17 pm ET As there were no more raised hands for public comment, the Board went back to discussing Berthold’s suggestions.

8:26 pm ET Motion (EEF) To extend the meeting to 9:45 pm ET. Seconded.

Amendment (John Brinkley) Offered an amendment to above. To extend the meeting to 8:45 pm ET. Seconded. Roll call vote was taken which tied at 7 for and 7 against. In the view of our parliamentarian, R Paul Martin, altering the agenda, which this would do, requires a 2/3 vote, hence the amendment failed.

The Acting Chair ended the meeting at 8:32 pm Et.

Submitted by M. Kay Williams, Secretary of the LSB