

Draft Minutes WBAI LSB Meeting in public session 7 pm ET, Wednesday, 6-14-23

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

Absent: Priscilla Cancar, Jack DeVine, Bounubti Kamentou, Errol Maitland, Basir MChawi, Katherine O'Sullivan, Andre Ward

Also present: Berthold Reimers, Linda Perry, 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, After First Noting What Communications Were Received By Secretary or Chair About Those Absences Beforehand -(5 minutes)
5. Approve outstanding minutes: May 10, 2023 Meeting (5 minutes)
6. Report from the LOFT – 8 min – John Brinkley
7. Programming Updates. (5 minutes report, 5 minutes Q&A) - Linda Perry
8. Report from Pacifica National Board Directors Including election update and deadline and reducing cost of voting-cart being run. (7 minutes & 5 minutes discussion) - Shawn Rhodes, James Sagurton, Sharonne Salaam, Jim Dingeman.
9. General Manager's Report. (10 Minutes report 10 minutes discussion) - Berthold Reimers
10. Revolution To Ensure Careful, Curated, Appropriately Promoted WBAI Art Auctions. (10 minutes discussion) - James Sagurton
11. Resolution Reflecting Proposal Generated by LOFT Committee Re Fund Raising Data Allocations To Programs. (10 Minutes report 5 minutes discussion) - Jim Dingeman
12. Treasurer's Report. - (5 Minutes report 5 minutes discussion) - R. Paul Martin
13. Management Evaluation Committee Report and Request To LSB Members to Furnish Assessments. (3 Minutes) - Michael D. D. White.
14. Discussion, Possible Action To be Taken, Resolution: Persecution and Assassination of Journalists (e.g. Julian Assange) With Multiple WBAI Journalists Now On Ukranian Government Endorsed Kill List Promoted By US w/ Taxpayer Dollars Including NATO hosting and CIA backing. (15 minutes) -Michael D. D. White.
15. Report from Community Advisory Board (2 Minutes) - Neale Vos
16. Resolution regarding functionality of email address for public to contact members of the LSB. (10 Minutes) - Eleanor Elizabeth Forman
17. Resolution To Set Up A Process Whereby The LSB Will, On a Case by Case Basis, Between Now and June 30, 2023, Act To Grant By-law Hardship Waivers To Certain Listeners Allowing Them To Vote In WBAI Elections Without Donating The Otherwise Required \$25 or Volunteer Work Minimum. (8 Minutes) - Eleanor Elizabeth Forman
18. 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
19. Report on Town Hall Discussions: - (3 Minutes) - Michael D. D. White/Jim Dingeman/Eleanor Elizabeth Forman.
20. Discussion: Improving WBAI and Pacifica Reputation and Brand.- (10 minutes) - Michael D. D. White
21. Discussion: Adjournment Time of LSB meeting(s)-(5 minutes) Dr. Shya Bey
22. Public Comment. (30 minutes, 2 minutes maximum per speaker before next in queue to speak. Must always begin no later than 9:15 PM.)

23. New Business. (Until end of meeting, if required)

24. Adjourn no later than 9:45 PM. (ET)

7:14 pm ET - Meeting called to order by acting chair Michael D.D. White, at the request of Dee Dee Halleck who knew she would be arriving late.

Marilyn Vogt-Downey – agreed to be timekeeper after obtaining her copy of the agenda.

7:22 pm ET – Motion (R. Paul Martin) To adopt the agenda as read by the secretary. Seconded. Objected to.

Amendment (Rachel Barr) To replace item 6 in draft agenda, which was to be continuation of her discussion re a PSA about the LSB Communications Policy with a Report to the LSB from the LOFT by John Brinkley for 8 minutes. She motivated her amendment by saying that her issue was no longer an issue at this point and John Brinkley was ready to present the LOFT report.

The amendment was briefly discussed and passed without objection. Then there was another objection to the main motion to accept the agenda. This was from Eleanor Elizabeth Forman. She made another amendment to move Item 17 up to immediately after the new item 6, report from the LOFT, since her motion was also from the LOFT and was very urgent and timely.

The Board discussed the new amendment.

Motion (Jim Dingeman) To extend discussion of the new amendment 2 minutes. Did not receive a second, so question was called. Roll Call vote was taken on the new amendment which failed with 8 no's, 5 yes'es, and 1 abstention.

Then the original motion to accept the agenda passed without objection.

7:49 pm ET Roll Call was taken, attendance as listed above.

Motion (John Brinkley) To excuse all absences. Seconded. Objected to by two people.

Amendment (Eleanor Elizabeth Forman) To only excuse absences if the person has presented a reason in advance. To be amended later in the case of an emergency. Seconded.

The Board discussed the amendment. A roll call vote was taken and the amendment failed by 10 no's and 4 yes'es.

8:02 pm ET – The original motion to excuse all absences passed without objection.

8:02 pm ET – Motion (Jim Dingeman) To waive the reading of the minutes and accept the minutes from 5-10-23 as sent by the secretary on 6-11-23. Seconded. Passed without objection. Eleanor Elizabeth Forman said she was not objecting but wanted them resent to her.

8:06 pm ET – John Brinkley presented the Report from the LOFT. As part of his report he wanted to make a motion regarding the LSB setting up a process for hardship waivers for listeners who couldn't afford the \$25 membership fee but wanted to participate in the upcoming Pacifica-wide elections. This was presented with a slightly different wording than Eleanor's item 17, but the chair ruled it out of order at this time and the alternative wording would be considered when item 17 came up on the agenda.

8:13 pm ET – Linda Perry presented Programing Update

Highlights:

- Requests for PSA's for any fundraising project needs to be approved first by the LSB and/or the GM.
- The Fundraising drive was disappointing, made no more money in 24 hours than they would have made in 3 hrs. It was not for Kathryn Davis not trying. Highlighted the need for more and newer premiums.

- In general, this month, fundraising \$20K less than same month last year, frustrated by unpredictable shut downs for transmitter maintenance. Has documented lost air time and will seek a credit from the Tower company. Read 1984 and The Invisible Man during the shutdowns, which were both also premiums. We may need to get a grant for a back-up generator. Doc Shya mentioned that she sent an offer for a back up generator 2 months ago and never got a response. Linda asked her to send it again.
- There is no staff to help with things like catching up with email. Many stations also have staff for promotion of programs, developing premiums for fundraising, or soliciting more PSA's.
- Discussed changes in the programming. James Irsay and the Laughing Cavalier are back. Carlos Menchaca will co-host a Pride month special. There will be a Juneteenth special and a special giving the breakdown on Trump indictments. Sojourner Truth now only on Tuesdays.
- As far as PSA's, there are 4 Department of Health, 1 Dept of Transportation, and 1 Dept of Education. Pacifica election PSA's are 15-30 sec and running frequently

8:27 pm ET Pacifica National Board report – Jim Dingeman, Shawn Rhodes, Sharonne Salaam, James Sagurton

Highlights

- Need to obtain Nielsen's ratings for CPB application, requires payment of back bill or part of back bill.
- To cover aged payables of \$2 million and retire outstanding loans, we needed the money from the sale of the KPFK building which is now on hold due to no buyer at present. The EIDL loan is past due 2 payments, and the FJC loan is in arrears since March. KPFK layoffs should have been made while we had money for severance from the PPP (Personnel Protection Program).
- This was also the reason for postponing elections this year, but now have to hold court-ordered elections. They are proceeding. Deadline for both confirming your voting status or running for the Local Station Board is June 30, 2023.
- The stations haven't been doing evaluations in a timely manner or including programmers in a functional way.
- Not as many listen to radio now as in the past due to Internet, podcasts, social media. Need to change to stay relevant.
- Many shows have only one or no BAI buddies, that means even the producer of the show doesn't invest in their own show.

The Board discussed the report.

8:43 pm ET Motion (Jim Dingeman) To extend discussion 3 minutes. Seconded. Passed without objection.

8:51 pm ET General Manager's Report – Berthold Reimers

Highlights

- Asked for 1 min of silence for life of Tony Ryan who worked for BAI for 20 years. He produced Soul Central Station on WBAI and WSCS.
- We have \$3200 in the bank and \$1.2 million in outstanding payables. We average a monthly deficit of \$24K.
- He sent spreadsheets comparing the last 3 years and we are raising less every year in fundraising.
- In his opinion, off-air fundraisers raise at most \$1000's, when we need millions. Sponsored events raise a little more.
- PSA's use a lot of staff time. He screen-shared how complicated it is to set up a contract, how much each PSA will bring in, and how they keep track of how many times a PSA is run and how long each one runs. It's just good business to give one bonus PSA at night.
- PNB once passed a resolution re intention to set up promotion committees. Corporate America spends about 33% of their income on marketing. New producers need training in pitching and finding premiums. Need a lot more premiums to cover a 9-hour fundraising period.

- Board Ops multitask very well, but everyone's been working 2 & 3 jobs since 1979 when things started to go downhill financially.

The Board discussed the report.

9:16 pm ET Public Comment Time began

9:46 pm ET Motion (Eleanor Elizabeth Forman) To extend adjournment time of the meeting 10 minutes to complete the agenda. Seconded. Failed by roll call vote with 8 no's, 5 yes'es, and 1 abstention.

9:51 pm ET Meeting adjourned

Submitted by Kay Williams, Secretary