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MINUTES

Sept 19, 2021

Teleconference

Local Station Board (LSB) Meeting

I. Opening Business 10:36 a.m.

A. **Call to Order/ Roll Call Taken**

Allan Beek, Fred Blair, Bella De Soto, Jan Goodman, Eric C. Jacobson, Ali Lexa, Rob Macon, Barbara Marbach, Michael Novick, Rob Macon, Robert Payne, Lydia Ponce, Lawrence Reyes, Rocio Rivas, Paul Roberson, Jeanine Rohn, Mansoor Sabbagh, Oscar Ulloa, Polina Vasiliev, Beth von Gunten, Harvey Wasserman, Kiyana Williams. Miquel Calcada (new General Manager) and Mo Thomas, recent iGM.

B. **Time Keeper appointed** – John Garry

C. **Land Acknowledgement** – by Lydia Ponce

D. **Approve Agenda** – total of 5 mins for Fundraising Cmte if needed.

E. **Excused Absences**

Michael Adler, Sandy Childs, Evelia Jones.

Kiyana Williams was also absent.

F. **Pacifica Mission Statement** – by M. Novick.

G. **Appeal for Funds for KPFK** - by P. Roberson.

H. **After action report** –

M. Novick reviewed the Elections status (unsatisfactory) and the Strategy Meetings with the staff (incl. phone-banking initiative and webinar production already underway). He informed of candidate forum already aired, upcoming Spanish-speaking forum, as well as the request from the GM for traffic reports of the scheduling of the required candidate carts.

II **GM welcome, report and Discussion:**
M. Calcada introduced himself and took questions.

III **Public Comment #1** (11:24am)

IV **Director's Reports**

L. Reyes reports on the PNB Election Committee and the fight for compliance in the election process (report attached). E. von Gunten and A. Lexa reported on the work on the PNB to address the station's and network's financial crises.

Comments and discussion included A. Beek, J. Rohn, B DeSoto, O. Ulloa, R. Macon.

V. **PNB Programming Committee members designations (2 positions)**

Programming Committee – Nominations to the Programming Committee taken.
Vacancies due to:

- Lydia Ponce elected PNB Director
- Harvey Wasserman has resigned due to conflicts.

2 PNB Directors vacancies on this committee -
(Only one will be a voting member - the PNB shall decide.)

B. DeSoto - self nominated

Polina Vasiliev - self nominated

O. Ulloa - self nominated

Candidates gave statements on their merits.

VII. **Public Comments #2** - (at 12:14pm)

VII. **Treasurer and Finance Committee reports & discussion.**

- a. F. Blair gave report on station financials, summer and upcoming fund-drive.
- b. Brainstorm of possible budget priorities for FY2022.
(delayed due to meeting running over)
(Oct 1, 2021-Sept. 30, 2022)

VIII. **Public Comments #3** - (at 12:55pm)

VIII. **Governance Committee**

Proposed Motion-

"Original Nations day (2)(1)-for10-12-21Program Proposal" (see attached).

Substitute motion - the KPFK LSB recommends to the general manager to consider a special day of programming commemorating Indigenous Peoples Day to include the local tribal people the Tongva, the Chumash, Tutavia Ho Chi Minh and the United Confederation of Taino People.

Allan Beek, Fred Blair, Bella De Soto, Jan Goodman, Eric C. Jacobson, Ali Lexa, Rob Macon, Barbara Marbach, Michael Novick, Rob Macon, Robert Payne, Lydia Ponce, Lawrence Reyes, Rocio Rivas, Paul Roberson, Jeanine Rohn, Mansoor Sabbagh, Oscar Ulloa, Polina Vasiliev, Beth von Gunten, Harvey Wasserman (?), Kiyana Williams (?).

- IX. **Programming Oversight Committee** – reviewed by B. von Gunten.
- X. **Outreach Committee** – Townhall scheduled for 9/26 reviewed by B. DeSoto.
- XI. L.Reyes announces the next COI meeting is 9/27.
- XII. **Fundraising Committee** – convened by J. Rohn (see attached statement).
- XIII. **Public Comments #4** – at 1:46pm
- XIV. **New Business** – not addressed.
- XV. **Adjourn** – at 1:59pm.

Director's report from Elizabeth von Gunten

I was elected to both the KPFK LSB and the PNB well into what has clearly been an extended period of years of managerial turmoil and disorder. Years went by with no audits at all, until the recent successful effort to restore our audit process just this year.

Seriously inadequate attention to the budget process over time had also led to multiple years with no budgets at all, including last year's attempt to create a KPFK budget no less than seven times to no avail, even with the assistance of the previous local Finance Committee.

My tenure on both the local and National Finance Committees began at the point at which our local FC and LSB conceded that they had reached an impasse in that attempt and, halfway through this fiscal year, turned over the task to the PNB, the NFC, and the very capable hands of the business professionals at NETA to remedy the situation.

Working our way out of that predicament and restoring order to the process has taken time. We are only now on the verge of presenting preliminary results of that effort, with the objective of mapping out a remedial pathway into the future.

Such significant course correction can be accomplished only incrementally, with this year serving as a base line and turning point, and subsequent years holding out the possibility of further improvement if we can stay the course.

The prospect of Pacifica's overall financial health continues to show gradual improvement as the benefits of increased financial self discipline become more apparent over time, thanks in no small part to the business acumen of NETA's professional business services.

Their reliable standard business practices create a long overdue and very welcome internal regularity and fiscal self discipline, providing at least the opportunity for longer term strategic planning and a more stable and predictable future if we are prepared to take advantage of it.

Over the course of the last month, the current KPFK financial crisis and unresolved questions about the ongoing election process have engendered many special and emergency meetings, in addition to ongoing regular board and committee meetings, task forces and work groups.

In the past month I've taken part in more work sessions than I can count and much independent background work tracking down and helping document excessive expenditures and opportunities to economize, with many long hours of collaboration with the KPFK Treasurer and our colleagues from the NFC, to whom we owe a notable debt of gratitude.

In addition I've attended all regular and special national meetings in which I'm responsible to represent KPFK listeners and the LSB, including all Pacifica National Board, National Finance Committee, National Strategic Planning Committee meetings, and others.

In particular, at my request the Pacifica National Development Task Force has finally reconvened and is now scheduled to meet regularly on an ongoing basis with a number of projects in the works.

In addition, I took part in my first on air LSB Report to the Listeners, a new production intended to become a regular feature.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions, comments, or concerns about our work at the national level now or at any time throughout the month and I'll do my best to respond.

Respectfully submitted,

**Beth von Gunten
KPFK LSB, PNB Director**

Lawrence Reyes PNB Listener Director's Report for 9-19-2021

Good morning, KPFFK LSB my report will mainly reflect my work on National concerns and that is the very real concerns of our upcoming LSB Delegates Election and the difficulties implementing By-Laws Articles: Article 4 Section 6, which lays out the process of our Democratically Run Delegates Elections for the Pacifica Network. I have convened the PNB Elections Committee as Chairperson Pro-Tem with our LSB Secretary Jeannine Rohn under a Committee Special Rule open the committee process to the public as a Committee of the Whole have taken testimony from Pacifica Station's listeners and candidates the Public Comments have added legitimacy to not only my concerns as your PNB Listener Director but my very concerns have been amplified as a result I'm including in my Director's report those concerns of a lack of Election Information throughout the Network in just a snap-shot of perceived Fair Campaign Violations as well compliance with Article 4, Section 6 our Pacifica Foundations By-Laws.

Issues/ Grievances:

Membership list not confirmed to be reliable.

Staff knowledge of Allegiance varies - so list requested may not be the same (or all encompassing)

E-ballots not received - by member who receives other regular emails from station.

E-ballot not received by sustaining members.

E-ballots not received after emailing NES.

No validation process/ confirmation of ballots received by members.

Previous membership director/ coordinator as listener candidate.

No response to grievances filed.

Volunteers not informed their hours make them members.

Listeners not informed about election (that carts are pending, procedure etc.)

GMs are sitting on carts because there's a fund-drive. NES not enforcing what their requirements are (bylaws)

Candidates not properly notified of recorded forums.

Youtube is a serious disconnect for radio audience. (& shows Pacifica disconnect w/ stakeholders)

Some committee members were available to help. NES seems overwhelmed.

If nothing is done about these issues, it shows the powers that be don't care.

Can't tell whether issues are nefarious.

No assurance that iED and NES have informed the GMs on their obligations for on air carts & debates..

No assurance questions on youtube forums actually came from membership ("audience")

Unfair election - people voting without hearing from candidates.

This many issues deeply disturbing.

Violations:

(Art. 4; Sect. 6)

- Ballots mailed during fund-raising drive

(Art. 4; Sect. 6)

- Not promoting the election on-air.

- Not airing Candidate statements carts.

- Not providing live Q&A period with call-in listeners

Immediate cart from NES/LES recommending members wait for on-air carts & debate before vote.

Should ask for involvement from membership in reporting if they aren't hearing them

Phone help during fund-drive need to take accurate email addresses Need to eliminate household membership. Each person should have their own membership.

NES & iED ask the PNB to support action to make sure live debates asap protecting rights of candidates who are running or the possible candidates so that people would hear their voices before they vote.

Campaign finance reform needed (level playing field with access to members contact info)

- transparency needed as well.

Delivery issues need to be communicated back to station for the future.

Candidate forums should be a link in a prominent place on the station website.

Candidate statement could be recorded on Pacifica zoom.

Should be uniform cart from NES on process and procedure. (including the ability to "reset" their ballot.)

PNB and LSB members be provided with contract for the NES - to review powers, duties specified.

NES provide committee for list of things volunteers and Cmte members can help with.

Contact PNB members directly using an open mtg on Thurs 8/26 (from the 8/21 Cmte motion

-see below

Carts - On-air Status reports:

WBAI - (William) 8 min. NES or LES info about election & 1 on-air debate prior to balloting.

KPFA - (Susan) Heard logistics, but not carts or debate KPFT

- (S. Moreno) No carts on the air yet.

KPFBK – 1 cart from NES reporting candidate statements could be found online.

WPFW - *report not avail at this time (need recording on kpftx to report)*

KPFK Treasurer's Report SEPTEMBER 2021

FY20 KPFK Financial Stats from Pacifica Consolidated P&L 9.31.2020 (NOT Audited)

- *Average Monthly Operating Expenses:* \$290,700. Dollars
- *Average Monthly Payroll + Benefits:* \$174,418. Dollars
- *FY20 Total Operating Expenses:* \$3,488,398.74 Dollars
- *FY20 Listener Support:* \$2,518,165.38 Dollars
- *FY20 Total Revenue:* \$2,790,821.60 Dollars
- *FY20 Profit/Loss:* (\$697,577.14 Dollars)

FY21 KPFK Financial Stats from Pacifica Consolidated P&L 7.31.2021 (NOT Audited)

- *Average Monthly Operating Expenses:* \$268,097. Dollars
- *Average Monthly Payroll + Benefits:* \$147,111. Dollars
- *FY21 Total Operating Expenses:* \$2,680,965.20 Dollars
- *FY21 Listener Support:* \$1,887,868.54 Dollars
- *FY21 Total Revenue:* \$2,525,337.28 Dollars
- *FY21 Profit/Loss:* (\$155,627.92 Dollars)

KPFK Station Financial Status:

At the KPFK Finance Committee meeting of September 15th, 2021, the Station Business Manager, Barry Brooks gave his Report on KPFK's September FY21 Finances.

KPFK's Operating Administration Bank Account Balance is \$3,454.70 Dollars on Wednesday, September 15th, 2021. KPFK paid its Payroll, but had to borrow \$13,000 from PRA and \$3,000 from KPFA to make this mid-month, Payroll of \$39,000 dollars. The end of month payroll is \$49,000 dollars.

KPFK met its Payroll this last week by borrowing money from other Pacifica business units via inter-division money-transfers between Bank Accounts. We have been doing this for the last 18 months of the Pandemic Lockdown, but the reality and visibility of this situation hit home hard this week because K's Staff for the first time heard about this, and were worried they would not be paid, because this time the situation was out in the open.

But the reality is that this has been happening, for a very long time during the lockdown, and the only people that new the details were the ED, Business Manager, and NETA. We at the Finance Committee were hearing about borrowing money to make Payroll, but this has become normalized in our minds at the monthly Finance meetings. **This Is Not A Normal Financial Operating Mode.** We are now at the point that Income is not covering Payroll.

This week we have a new General Manager, Miquel Calcada, who started on Wednesday at the Station. He spoke to us at the Finance Committee meeting, and today will speak to us at this LSB meeting. Stabilizing the Station will be his first priority I think.

KPFK Treasurer's Report SEPTEMBER 2021

On Pacifica Foundation:

There is not much more I can say about KPFK's Financials. The last Fund Drive, that ended August 31st, had a Pledge Total of \$235,725 dollars after 43 days of drive. **This low \$ dollar number is the source of our financial problems.**

This means, each day of the last fund drive, we spent more money than we took in. We lost approximately \$3,500 dollars per day during that drive. This is our Lowest Fund Drive we have run every.

Pacifica's Business Model is based on raising money from our listeners/subscribers; if we can't do that, then we will cease to exist as a Radio Station and Network of Stations. Nobody in this organization will have Radio Program, or Broadcast over the air-waves if that happens.

We will go out of Business. That's the Logic of our situation.

I will stop here now, for Board discussion.

Sincerely,

Fred Blair
KPFK 2021 LSB Board Treasurer
KPFK Finance Committee Chair
Pacifica PNB National Finance Committee (NFC) Member
KPFK LSB Listener Member/Delegate

KPFK Fund Drive History (3 YEARS)

Other than the obvious downward trend in the drive daily \$ averages for the last 3 years, there is the abrupt change in March 2020 when the Covid19 Pandemic Lockdown hit hard our Fund Drives. But everyone has been hit hard economically by the Pandemic, this last 14 months too.

FY21 Fund Drive Summary:

KPFK FUND Drive	Drive Daily Average	Dollar Goal	Dollars Pledged	Percentage of Goal	# of Days
October 2020	\$14,240.	\$400,000.	\$412,965.	103.2%	29
December 2020	\$11,790.	\$400,000.	\$259,375. \$345,929.	86.5%	22 31

KPFK Treasurer's Report SEPTEMBER 2021

<i>February 2021</i>	\$10,557.	<i>\$700,000.</i>	<i>\$432,856.</i>	<i>61.8%</i>	<i>41</i>
<i>April 2021</i>	\$9,094.	<i>\$650,000.</i>	<i>\$409,236.</i>	<i>62.9%</i>	<i>45</i>
<i>July 2021 -- August</i>	\$5,499	<i>\$600,000</i>	<i>\$235,725.</i>	<i>39.3%</i>	<i>43</i>

**146 Total Fund Drive Days in FY21,
\$1,405,799.00 Total Dollars Pledged.**

FY20 Fund Drive Summary:

<i>KPFK FUND Drive</i>	<i>Drive Daily Average</i>	<i>Dollar Goal</i>	<i>Dollars Pledged</i>	<i>Percentage of Goal</i>	<i># of Days</i>
<i>October 2019</i>	\$16,902.	<i>\$600,000.</i>	<i>\$659,192.</i>	<i>109.8%</i>	<i>39</i>
<i>December 2019</i>	\$13,956.	<i>\$266,000.</i>	<i>\$237,246.</i>	<i>89.2%</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>February 2020</i>	\$15,021.	<i>\$650,000.</i>	<i>\$510,716.</i>	<i>78.6%</i>	<i>34</i>
<i>April-May-June 2020</i>	\$7,076.	<i>>\$300,000. per Month</i>	<i>\$200,000. per Month</i>	<i>66%</i>	<i>Continuous Soft-Drive</i>
<i>July-August- September 2020</i>	\$14,164.	<i>\$200,000.</i>	<i>\$200,000. per Month</i>	<i>75%</i>	<i>??</i>

**115+?? days Total Fund Drive Days in FY20,
\$2,518,165. Total Dollars Pledged.**

FY19 Fund Drive Summary:

<i>KPFK FUND Drive</i>	<i>Drive Daily Average</i>	<i>Dollar Goal</i>	<i>Dollars Pledged</i>	<i>Percentage of Goal</i>	<i># of Days</i>
<i>October 2018</i>	\$21,610.	<i>\$650,000.</i>	<i>\$561,868.</i>	<i>86.44%</i>	<i>26</i>
<i>December 2018</i>	\$21,105.	<i>\$350,000.</i>	<i>\$274,364.</i>	<i>78.39%</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>February 2019</i>	\$19,629.	<i>\$650,000.</i>	<i>\$706,654.</i>	<i>108.72%</i>	<i>36</i>

KPFK Treasurer's Report SEPTEMBER 2021

<i>May 2019</i>	\$17,400.	<i>\$650,000.</i>	<i>\$539,398.</i>	<i>82.98%</i>	<i>31</i>
<i>July 2019</i>	\$14,075.	<i>\$600,000.</i>	<i>\$450,404.</i>	<i>75.07%</i>	<i>32</i>

**138 Total Fund Drive Days in FY19, \$2,896,030.
Total Dollars Pledged.**

Jeanine Rohn – Statement upon convening Fundraising Committee (9/19/21)

We all know it's a critical time to fund-raise - and I'm excited to bring a variety of my skills to the Fundraising committee as chair. I've been a CFO of a non-profit and have overseen many fundraising events as well as on-line campaigns. Also, I've helmed a multitude of phone-banking and community outreach campaigns in my district for various political candidates.

The strategy group decided Fundraising committee should be revitalized to house all fundraising ideas and implementation. This is important because I know that the strategy group that's been working recently (consisting of staff, board officers and PNB directors) has been frustrating to other members not able to participate. This is why I strongly urged at the last strategy mtg we instead have the Fundraising Committee house all activity regarding fundraising at this time. It allows for as many board members participation as is desired - and with that, listener participation (whether as members or just observers). I believe this way we accomplish having a transparent process from this point forward.

I'll highlight for everyone the ideas that have been discussed at these strategy mtgs (and there's only been 3 X 1 hr mtgs) that the Fundraising Committee will now take up:

- 1) Phone Banking & Member outreach
- 2) Appeal to High Donors & Gift
- 3) Subscription Podcasts (Ali)
- 4) Specialty Programming
- 5) Labor Program (Steve Zeltzer)
(Labor support/ outreach)
- 6) Short term bridge loan
- 7) CPB Funding (qualifying)
- 8) Grants

I am putting grants at the end of the list - because although there is a great amount of pressure to begin applying and accepting grants, I believe we all know that what's best for the network and the station is for us to put a majority of our fundraising focus back to gaining back the support from our community. Prioritizing the listenership should be the foundation of our regrowth. The fact is that various items have caused listenership to wane due to various issues - programming, member outreach, financial management, even covid, which has hindered the ability to literally be with the community. And while there are tangible grant possibilities likely at our doorstep - so are moneyed interests waiting to influence our station - in programming and other areas of operation. I believe that before entertaining to accept any grants, we most first have a serious discussion on what that would mean for the station - **are they absolutely necessary?**

We must avoid seeking grants as a solution to get past this current shortfall. It's clear in our history - that our network was conceived and established to be a self-sustaining to maintain our content and programming independence. Our foundation needs to be our listenership. Grants would be a quick fix - that may never go away. And while there may be members who have no issue with grants - we strive to maintain our programming content independence.

If we become reliant on grants, they will eventually influence and affect the freedom of our content. If we are RELIANT ON outside entities - it threatens our mission, it bypasses the democratic process accountably to the listeners. Reliance means power, of various sorts. and grants have a tendency to bloat a non-profit (salaries, consultant fees, etc. - it's very inviting. However, I stated at the last finance meeting - we are a vulnerable network right now, and especially KPFFK. I truly believe that through various intentional agendas we have been driven to a point where we are now desperate for financing. Our actions we make in desperation have a good chance at being detrimental. And I am keenly aware that we that many in our network that believe grants are our solution. Know that I am not including CPB grants in these statement (which is still a bit controversial at the time it was adopted) But I mean specifically grants.

Please help me in achieving this goal of prioritizing our fundraising back to the listenership. We will be open to ideas and all discussions. But also know, if there are workings and efforts that take place outside of this committee that go on, I believe what that says is that there is not the desire for transparency.

These are my initial thoughts as the new chair revitalizing the committee. We can fundraise the right way, Yes the hard way, but the right way. I will outline more of what I believe is needed to structure this committee in the coming week in preparation for it's first meeting this coming up Saturday 9/25 at 1p-est; 12n-cst; 10a-pst. Looking forward to those of you who want to join up and do this important work of revitalizing our relationship with our listenership.

Original Nations' Day Oct 12, 2021

529 Years of Indigenous Resistance
Program Proposal from 4PM to Midnight
~The start of a Pacifica-KPFFK Tradition~

The Los Angeles City council in 2017 officially recognized Indigenous peoples day joining local governments across the country replacing Columbus Day with Indigenous peoples day. In light of the 529 years of Indigenous resistance, and joining commemorations happening throughout the continent, KPFFK has a very timely opportunity to be on the forefront and in solidarity with the second largest percentage of Native Americans living in Los Angeles California today. LA County

is home to more Native Americans and Alaskan natives than any other county in the United States.

We propose an 8 hour special broadcast beginning at 4PM through 12AM Midnight on Tuesday October 12th hosted by Indigenous scholars, artists, filmmakers, authors, environmental activists and respected members of Indigenous nations. We seek to include Indigenous programmers and volunteers already producing shows such as American Indian Airwaves Waves and Spanish Language Programming.

Here is a tentative run down.

First block

4 -5PM (Opening Ceremony) followed by Steven Newcomb show

5-6PM Luis Eagle Thunder

6-7PM Live Indigenous music performers

7-8PM American Indian Airwaves

Second Block

8-9PM Purepechas/Zapotec and Indigenous people of Mexico

9-10PM indigenous women

10-11PM tentative

11-12PM closing ceremonial songs

Coordinator - Jose Benavides-KPFK Programmer