

Minutes for the regular National Finance Committee meeting January 9, 2024.

Meeting convened at 8:42 PM (ET) a quorum being present, the Chair and Secretary being present.

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Attending: Teresa Allen, Lynden Foley, Kamau Harris, Julie Hewitt, Christina Huggins, Kim Kaufman, R. Paul Martin (Secretary), James McFadden, James Sagurton (Chair), Elizabeth von Gunten also attending were Pacifica Executive Director Stephanie D. Wells and WBAI General Manager Berthold Reimers.  
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Agenda:

1. Convene Meeting
  2. Roll Call
  3. Adopt Agenda
  4. Chair's announcements (2 minutes)
  5. Review of the Draft FY24 WBAI Budget (WBAI General Manager Berthold Reimers presenting) 60 minutes)
  6. Review the End of Year Consolidated Monthly Statements for the 12 months ending September 30, 2023. (20 minutes)
  7. Report from the Executive Director with Q & A (15 minutes)
  8. Minutes (5 minutes)
  9. Updates from the National Office, KPFA and WPFW on when the NFC may expect to receive their budgets (5 minutes)
  10. Adjourn no later than 10:15 PM (ET)
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**Motion:** (James Sagurton) "To adopt the agenda." (Passed without objection)

Chair's announcements 8:44 PM (ET)

"Tonight we will review the Draft FY24 WBAI Budget. Please check the NFC list to find it.

"Also, tonight we will review the End of Year Consolidated Monthly Income Statement for the 12 months ending September 30, 2023.

"Time permitting, we will also hear a regular report from Pacifica Executive Director, Stephanie Wells tonight.

"Please look at any documents posted by National Finance Committee Secretary R. Paul Martin on the NFC list."

The Chair also announced that the committee had gotten the KPFA draft FY24 budget earlier that day.

Review of the Draft FY24 WBAI Budget (WBAI General Manager Berthold Reimers presenting)

8:45 PM (ET)

The WBAI General Manager noted that he'd made a presentation of the WBAI draft FY24 budget at the last meeting and that he was presenting the same draft budget document at this meeting. He talked about answers to questions that he'd been asked by the committee at the last meeting. He told about some adjustments to the revenue and expenses that he'd made and he went over details regarding those changes. In the course of discussion it turned out that due to a miscommunication the WBAI General Manager's E-mail replies had not been forwarded to the NFC mailing list. When this became clear the Secretary forwarded those E-mails to the committee's mailing list.

In answer to a question the Chair said that he'd sent the WBAI General Manager's E-mail address and phone number to the committee a couple of days after the January 2, meeting.

The WBAI General Manager said that the increase in Community Events revenue was due to venues opening up after having been shut down due to COVID-19 restrictions. He mentioned some recent Community Events that had raised money. The Chair said that he'd been working with the WBAI General Manager on this draft budget for a while, and he was going to assist him with his answers and he also talked about why the projected Community Events revenue increased by a large percentage. The General Manager talked about the Community Events that were currently planned.

The committee discussed the details of some of the Community Events and the revenue from them that the WBAI FY24 draft budget projected. In the course of the discussion some members discussed the numbers in the different documents that had been sent to the committee. The Chair attempted to clarify which document was the actual draft FY24 budget and which were various documents intended to answer questions, and there was a discussion about this. The WBAI General Manager delineated the documents that were before the committee and what each was intended to communicate, and he went over what various columns and rows meant.

The Chair said that he would prefer that the committee not be jumping from one document to another and told the committee the order in which he wanted to cover the documents.

The Chair explained the difference between actual Community Events and the Broadway theater tickets that were used for on-air fund raising.

**Point of Order:** (Christina Huggins) The Chair is violating his position as chair to answer the questions for the General Manager and defining the procedure for us when there are other people who don't want to just read the document.

The Chair ruled that the point was not well taken and that in a committee the Chair is allowed to participate in the proceedings and that he has worked with the General Manager and the Executive Director on the WBAI draft FY23 budget.

At this point there was a discussion of what the will of the committee was and how documents would be considered and how questions would be asked.

The committee resumed discussing line items related to the WBAI draft FY24 budget proposal. There was a discussion of whether the actuals for FY23 were from the National Office Consolidated Income Statement of the WBAI General Manager's numbers that he generated locally. The WBAI General Manager said that he had not had the National Office's Income Statement through September 30, 2023, until the day before the meeting. He noted that going forward all of those numbers would come only from the National Office because they can see all of the information at the Bank of America. In the course of the discussion the location of the revenue from the PSAs in the FY23 actuals was brought up and the Executive Director agreed that the only place in the actuals where that revenue could show up would be the Listener Support line. The Executive Director said that the National Office did not know what the coding was for the PSAs from which WBAI has been getting revenue and she suggested that the WBAI General Manager send the National Office an E-mail telling them that a certain deposit had been made and that it should be credited to the PSA line. The WBAI General Manager agreed that this was probably what he should do. It was noted that this would have to be done all over Pacifica and that this would be a lot of work for General Managers and the National Business Manager.

**Motion:** (James Sagurton) "To extend the time for this item and the meeting by 15 minutes." (Passed without objection) 10:15 PM (ET)

A member noted that the WBAI General Manager knows the general ledger code so he can mark it to coordinate with the National Office's numbers. The member said that the WBAI General Manager's actuals were about \$50,000 off from those of the National Office and that when the committee meets next we need one set of actuals and the budget has to match the actuals and that there should be no more than a 10% increase in revenue. The Chair said that at the next meeting the committee would work with one document and would have one set of numbers.

**Motion:** (James Sagurton) "To meet on January 16, 2024, at 8:30 PM (ET)." (Fails 4 for, 6 against)

The Committee discussed the motion.

Adjourned 10:33 PM (ET)

Submitted by R. Paul Martin, Secretary.