MINUTES

Local Station Board Meeting of April 15, 2018
Aris & Carolyn Anagnos Peace Center
3916 Sepulveda Blvd, Culver City, CA 90230
Local Station Board (LSB) Meeting

I. Call to Order / Opening Business 10:39 a.m.
   A. Roll Call Taken:
      Present are KPFK LSB Members Marlena Bond, Sandy Childs, Roberta Eidman, Jaime Gomez, Jan Goodman, Stephen Kaiser, Doug Kriegel, Ali Lexa, Barbara Marbach, Ismael Parra, Reza Pour, Steve Pride, Myla Reson, Lawrence Reyes, Mansoor Sabbagh and Fernando Velasquez. Also present are the KPFK General Manager Anyel Zuberi Fields and LSB Secretary Michael Adler.

   B. Approve Proposed Agenda:
      A motion was made to add an agenda item for reports from the Program Director Search Committee and the Personnel Committee to hear information about the Program Director search process and about the Program Director Evaluation process. This agenda item was approved by unanimous consent. A motion was then made to add a closed Executive Session after Minutes Approval and the first set of public comments. The agenda item for an Executive Session was added by unanimous consent. With the two amendments, the motion to approve the Proposed Agenda was also approved by unanimous consent.

   C. LSB Excused absence requests:
      Grace Aaron, Ken Aaron, Jonathan Alexander, Stephen Frantz, Maggie LePique, Reza Pour, Dorothy Reik, Lance Simmens, and Lisa Wong requested excused absences. There was a discussion regarding the large number of excused absences at recent meetings. A motion was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 7 yes; 3 no, and 4 abstain to accept all of the excused absences except Dorothy Reik. A motion was made to have a more thorough discussion of the excused absences. The Chair ruled this out of order. The Chair’s ruling was challenged. A vote was held to uphold the Chair’s ruling and the Chair’s ruling was upheld by a vote of 10 yes; 1 no; and 4 abstain. A vote to approve Dorothy Reik’s excused absence was discussed (two spoke in favor and one spoke against) after which Dorothy Reik’s excused absence was approved by a vote of 9 yes; 0 no; and 6 abstain.

   D. Approve February 18, 2018 LSB Minutes:
      A motion to approve the Local Station Board Minutes of March 18, 2018 was made and
seconded. A motion was made to amend the minutes which was seconded but failed to pass by a vote 5 yes; 5 no; and 5 abstain. The draft minutes were then approved by unanimous consent.

E. Motion to move Public Comments
A motion was made and seconded to move the first set of Public Comments to before the closed Executive Session. The motion passed 12 yes; 2 no; 1 abstain and the agenda was to have the Public Comments #1 before the Executive Session.

II. Public Comments #1  11:22 am –11:37 am
Public comments were presented.

III. Executive Session
A motion was made to allow the Secretary to remain during closed Executive Session and approved by unanimous consent. The meeting recessed for Executive Session and the closed Executive Session was held.
Report Out: The KPFK LSB met in Executive Session to discuss confidential financial matters.

IV. Reports 12:35 PM
A. General Manager Report
The new General Manager, Anyel Zuberi Fields, presented his report, attached to these minutes as Appendix B.

B. Q&A for General Manager
Questions for the General Manager were heard and responded to.

C. Directors Reports.
Mansoor Sabbagh presented on behalf of the Program Director Job Search Committee. Jan Goodman presented for the Personnel Committee and the Pacifica National Board.

D. Q&A for Directors
Questions for the Directors were heard and responded to.

V. Public Comments #2  1:44 pm – 1:51 pm
Public comments were presented.

VI. Closing Business
A motion to adjourn was made and seconded and approved by unanimous consent. The chair adjourned the meeting at 1:52 pm.
Appendix A - Required Notices

Proper notice of this meeting was posted on the KPFK Calendar and at the Pacifica Calendar as required.

Appendix B – General Manager’s Report

The General Manager’s Report is presented on the following pages.
“Far better is it to dare mighty things, to win glorious triumphs, even though checkered by failure... than to rank with those poor spirits who neither enjoy nor suffer much, because they live in a gray twilight that knows not victory nor defeat.” - Theodore Roosevelt

KPFK’s history is filled with moments of conflict, turnover, failure, successes, and growth. Upon my return to the station, I have a new perspective on the disharmony that seems to be a part of the fabric that is KPFK’s culture. However, many people are committed to going above and beyond to ensure that KPFK continues to provide a broadcast medium that inspires, educates,
enlightens, and gives hope to its listeners. KPFK owes its successes and continued existence to those that continue to sacrifice their time to serve KPFK, lend their professional experience, and donate their hard earned money to fund KPFK’s operation. We need to keep KPFK’s existence in perspective as we face the abyss of an uncertain future. It has become way too easy for us to focus on all the reasons why we have been failing. Now is the time to remember our strengths and what sets us apart from every radio station in Los Angeles.

KPFK and Pacifica are at a crossroad in its existence where every volunteer, paid staff member, and board members decisions and or actions can have profound effects on KPFK's future. It has become so easy for many of us just to complain about our shortcomings and inadequacies rather than provide solutions and embrace innovations. Complaining and pointing blame will not set us on a path of growth and more significant impact. Some would instead perpetuate conflict amongst one another when KPFK needs its staff, volunteers, board members, and those with a vested interest in the station to come together in the spirit of cooperation and respect for our community at KPFK to thrive. We could spend hours, days, and weeks on debating or coming up with theories why the station is failing. The questions we need to be asking ourselves are how can we succeed, add value to KPFK, and establish a level of excellence KPFK has yet to attain.

KPFK Program Department Report

March 24, we broadcast three hours of Democracy Now's national coverage of the March for Our lives from the Mall in Washington. We also featured live reports from the Downtown Los Angeles March, by KPFK's Alan Minsky and Ernesto Arce, at the top of the hour from 9 am through to 2 pm.

We featured a full day of Spanish and bi-lingual programming around March 25, celebrating the 12th anniversary of the massive immigrant rights demonstration in Downtown Los Angeles on that day in 2006. This year's day of special programming focused on the fight back against the Trump-led backlash against immigrants and their communities. Highlights included shows featuring lawyers and analysts discussing nuances of the current situation in the USA, California, and Los Angeles, the rising-tide of reactionary, racist right-wing governments around the world and the relationship of that trend to immigrant rights, as well as three DACA recipients who were live in-studio discussing their situation and struggle for human rights.

March 30th we aired our first episode of Rock Profiles, hosted by Maggie LePique started off with a look at the music of guitarist Jimi Hendrix. Maggie spoke with the archivist, catalog manager, and producer for Experience Hendrix, John McDermott. John and Maggie discussed the most recently released Jimi Hendrix album, "Both Sides of the Sky." special guests included Stephen Stills and Johnny Winter... and Jimi’s very first recordings with bassist Billy Cox and drummer Buddy Miles, the lineup that would become known as Band of Gypsies.

April 4th, KPFK had a whole day of special programming dedicated to the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of his assassination in Memphis.

On April 10th at 2 pm, we had an hour special show celebrating Deloris Huerta on her 88th birthday, co-hosted by Dan Guerrero and Mark Torres.
Program Changes

We are excited that KPFK’s prisoner rights/Prison abolition show, Think Outside the Cage (TOTC) is now on once a week for an hour at 10 am on Saturdays. Moving into the rotating timeslot of TOTC on Saturdays at 8 am is Halfway Down the Stairs, which will air in an hour format every other Saturday, as Uncle Ruthie returns to Saturday mornings. The Ralph Nader Radio Hour, which has been airing at 10 am on Saturdays, is moving to Mondays at 2 pm; and the Jimmy Dore Show, which was previously on Mondays at 2 pm will now be airing Fridays at 7 pm.

There are two less permanent moves to report, host Cary Harrison is returning to KPFK’s airwaves with Reality Check Live, and will start out at 7:30 pm on Wednesdays until the show moves to a more permanent timeslot after the May fund drive. Also, a KPFK pilot series, A Spiritual Guide to Politics, will be on Fridays at 6:30 pm until the May fund drive.

Currently, four shows are on hiatus: the Laura Flanders Show, Truthdig Radio, On Resistance, and Flip the Script.

Business Department

KPFK’s current Operating Administration account balance is $264,762.66 as of April 9, 2018. We expect an additional deposit of approximately $18,500 on April 21, 2018, from the February 2018 fund drive residuals and online donations.

The February 2018 fund drive raised approximately $655,543 pledge amount, and we came well over the initial expectation of $650,000. KPFK’s payables and premiums are current and being paid promptly.

We continue to streamline our vendor lists to go with vendors that provide services at a reduced rate. KPFK’s web design and marketing services have been switched from Constant Contact to Mail Chimp.

We are now in full operational mode for the FY2016 audit with documents currently being reviewed by the auditors Regalia and Associates. KPFK has presented the FY2018 Budget to the Local Station Board and Finance Committee and is awaiting approval from the Pacifica National Board by early next month.

The new Great Plains and FRX upgrade for the new version is underway, and the IT consultant is in the process of assigning training for the employees of KPFK and other affiliates during April 2018. Possible completion date, May 2018.

Engineering

We have had a month without any loss of airtime. Work continues at the Mount Wilson transmitter location on building clean up. Monday, the 9th of April was quite hot on the mountain and is a preview of the summer.

The air conditioning at the Mount Wilson transmitter location is not adequate for the temperature extremes that we have seen on the mountain and requires a small upgrade, suggested by our air conditioning service company.
The springtime and summers have been quite hot on the mountain (it was in the 80s on Monday the 9th of April), and well below freezing in the winter. The current system is unable to handle the temperature extremes. Last summer, during sweltering conditions, the transmitter output power had to be decreased to keep the temperatures inside the building within equipment requirements.

The requested upgrades would be able to provide much better temperature control and remote monitoring of the building temperature. Also, it will give us the ability to override the thermostats, during extreme conditions.

Proper temperature control will prolong equipment life and increase reliability.

We have been making a review of equipment performance in the transmission path, and so far everything is performing correctly, in compliance with FCC standards.

Our annual emergency generator overhaul at Mount Wilson concluded successfully. This generator is tested once a week, onsite. When power outages have occurred, our generator has kept us on the air during these periods.

Media Sponsorships

Media Sponsorships has been an excellent source of revenue for the station, and we look to streamline our sponsorship operation. Optimizing the process includes adopting software to help manage, provide thorough reports, monitoring, and improve efficiency.

Notable Sponsorships
Caltech Public Events Presents: The Kingston Trio live at Beckman Auditorium Sat. March 31st 2018 8pm generated $750

The Best You Expo at the Long Beach Convention Center March 24-25 brought in $1000

Center for the Art Of Performance (CAP) UCLA Partnership Oct. 2017-May 2018 includes 15 shows at $750 per show that will bring in $11,250. UCLA also purchased a full-page ad in the Heroes of Hope program. The UCLA partnership will net $12,000.

Ethan Russell's "The Best Seat in the House" The Luckman Fine Arts Complex at Cal State LA Saturday, April 28th at 8 pm! will bring in $1000.

We have a partnership with the LA Times Festival of Books April 21 and 22 at USC campus. Last year we had a fantastic turn out for the KPFK booth. Throughout the weekend we had hundreds, and hundreds of people say hello, and look to do some outreach again this year. Over 150,000 people attended April 2017. We will be at booth #914.
Upcoming Fundraising Event
KPFK Presents Richard Wolff on April 24th, at the Immanuel Presbyterian Church. Thought-provoking economist Richard D. Wolff returns to Los Angeles to discuss the instability and inequality that has to worsen along with most jobs, incomes, benefits. Debts grow. Corporations and the rich prosper: so the politicians they buy never question the system. They blame immigrants, China, one another: not how this system mistreats the rest of us.
We are currently developing an intranet site based on the Microsoft Share Point application we get from Tech Impact. Tech Impact is a nonprofit whose mission is to empower communities and nonprofits to use technology to better serve our world. The KPFK share point site will only be accessible by station staff, programmers, and LSB Members to help improve access to station resources, improve communication, and encourage collaboration. The site beta version is expected to launch in late April.