

Pacifica National Board In-Person Meeting (Open Session)

1:00 PM EDT, 12:00 PM CDT, 10:00 AM PDT (scheduled)

Channel Inn Hotel, Washington DC

Friday, September 23, 2011

Meeting Minutes

[Audio Part 1]

I. Call to Order and Opening Business

The board met in executive session from 9:25 AM to 12:12 PM EDT.

The open session was called to order by the Vice-Chair (who served as Chair) at 2:11 PM EDT.

a. Roll Call / Establish Quorum

Twenty members were present, constituting a quorum: Laura Prives (KPFA), Tracy Rosenberg (KPFA), Dan Siegel (KPFA), Ken Aaron (KPFK), Rodrigo Argueta (KPFK), Lydia Brazon (KPFK), Teresa Allen (KPFT), Jessica Apolinar (KPFT), Wesley Bethune (KPFT), Bill Crosier (Vice-Chair KPFT), Nia Bediako (WBAI), Carolyn Birden (WBAI), Kathy Davis (WBAI), Alex Steinberg (WBAI), Campbell Johnson (WPFW), Kimory Orendoff (WPFW), Marcel Reid (WPFW), Bruce Wolf (WPFW), Heather Gray (Affiliates), Efia Nwangaza (Affiliates, Secretary).

Two members were excused: Summer Reese (Chair, KPFK), Andrea Turner (KPFA).

Also present: Arlene Engelhardt (Pacifica Executive Director), LaVarn Williams (Pacifica Chief Financial Officer), Jon Almeleh (Pacifica National Technical Director), Otis Maclay (Pacifica Web Administrator) and members of the public.

The audio for this meeting can be accessed at KPFTX.org

The agenda is available in pdf form at KPFTX.org

b. Designate Timekeeper

Allen volunteered to be the timekeeper.

c. Agenda Approval

Following a suggestion from Bediako, Public Comment was moved to 3:00 PM without objection. A discussion of a motion to abolish the death penalty will be considered Sunday before lunch.

Brazon **moved** that Item XIII e. (“Pacifica Race and Nationality Policy”) shall be moved to the end of VI. Management Report 2, Executive Director Report (Saturday 1:00-2:00 PM). Motion **passed** by a show of hands. Yes--12, No—6.

Johnson **moved** to move the CFO Report to Saturday after Public Comment. Motion **failed** by substitution.

A **substitute motion** from Rosenberg: Add 30 minutes of Q&A with the CFO to Saturday’s 9:00-12:00 PM session for budget approval (IV. Committee Report (1) Finance and Budget Approval for All Units and Foundation). The motion to substitute **passed** by a hand vote Yes—9, No—7.

Rosenberg’s substituted motion **passed** by a show of hands: Yes—11, No—2.

The amended agenda was **approved** by a show of hands: Yes—12, No—4.

[Audio Part 2]

Public Comment was heard for sixteen minutes.

[Audio Part 3]

d. Minutes Approval

Nwangaza **moved** to postpone approval of the open session minutes to Sunday. Motion **passed** without objection.

Acknowledgements

Crosier thanked the staff of WPFW for their hospitality; help with transportation, and logistics. Allen thanked WPFW for arranging the evening entertainments. Crosier also invited the public to ongoing workshops.

II. a. Clarification of intent of 2008 motion regarding audio recordation of executive sessions for production of minutes, length of time of retention thereof, distribution and applicability to in-person meetings only.

b. Motion by Birden to rescind above referenced 2008 motion re: audio recording of executive sessions.

Point of order from Nwangaza: Objected to the implications of another board member's statement regarding the confidentiality of executive session recordings. The member claimed to have not implied any such thing.

Rosenberg **moved** to extend fifteen minutes. Motion **passed** without objection.

Birden's motion to rescind **failed** by a roll call vote: Yes—6, No—11, Abstain--1

Yes—Allen, Apolinar, Birden, Grey, Rosenberg, Steinberg.

No—Aaron, Argueta, Bediako, Bethune, Brazon, Davis, Nwangaza, Orendoff, Prives, Reid, Seigel.

Abstain—Wolf.

Present not voting--Crosier

[Audio Part 4]

III. Management Report 1. Chief Financial Officer LaVarn Williams

a. CFO Report and Financial Review

The CFO delivered an oral report. Electronic documents were delivered to the board at the meeting and were accessed during the report. Questions from the board followed.

[Audio Part 5]

Aaron **moved**: "Whereas Pacifica has just experienced a dramatic loss of service to its affiliates for a 24 hour period, and Whereas the computer support and service is at continued high risk of interruption or failure, the following motion is made:

On an immediate basis, the volume of material available on audio port will be reduced to a level that can be supported with a reasonable certainty of reliability and redundancy.

The details of determining and implementing this configuration, including selection and configuration of vendors, shall be the responsibility of the technical department.

Any funds required to implement this modification (up to \$2,000) shall be made immediately available to the technical department.

This task is to receive high priority and is expected to be completed by October 31, 2011."

Jon Almeleh (Pacifica National Technical Director) read a report on the recent AudioPort failure (see Appendix A). Almeleh and Otis Maclay (Pacifica Web Administrator) answered questions from the board.

Aaron **moved** to extend to 5:15 PM. Motion **passed** without objection. Discussion continued.

Siegel **moved** the board delegate this matter to the Executive Director, technical staff, and the Affiliates Manager and do it as quickly as it needs to be done. No vote taken.

Aaron's main motion was **passed** without objection.

The meeting adjourned without objection at 6:30 PM EDT.

Respectfully submitted by Efia Nwangaza, Secretary
John P. Garry III, Recording Secretary
(these minutes were approved on November 10, 2011)

Appendix A: "Pacifica web server crash"

In 2008, the Pacifica Nation Board voted to defund the national webmaster position and later hired a quarter time replacement webmaster, Otis Maclay, who has been managing the Pacifica National websites and working with The Pacifica National Technical Director, Jon Almeleh on a multiplicity of web applications and other projects that our network needs for its national infrastructure, for more than two and a half years.

We moved the Pacifica national websites to two servers at the "The Planet" in 2009 to save money and upgrade the servers to current speeds. We migrated both of these servers again to a single monster server in early 2010 to again save additional monthly fees. The Planet was a very reliable host but does not offer the same level of support since they were taken over by Softlayer earlier this year.

Otis and I had discussed RAID redundancy for the server with its (4) 1 TB drives but the cost would have equaled to the two servers we previously had. (Two of the current hard drives are almost totally filled with the AudioPort audio files.)

On Monday around 10:00 PM ET Otis was emailed a report from CPanel informing us that the Pacifica.org boot hard drive was out of specifications and to backup all the data, as there might be a possible drive crash in the near future.

Otis immediately contacted Softlayer to see what our options were. They said they do not clone hard drives, which we felt was our best option to save everything on the drive to a new drive for a fast recovery. The rented drive that was failing had almost two years of life when we acquired it.

Otis had Softlayer install an additional one TB hard drive and install the version of Cent Linux operating system we had been using for the server on the new hard drive. Simultaneously he started a special CPanel utility to copy the boot drive over to another drive on the server (which had the requisite free space).

Unfortunately the drive in question was deteriorating rapidly, as we were copying from it, and failed completely by morning. Otis and I stayed up all night working with Softlayer as the drive was being copied.

We recovered and resumed normal operation for most of the AudioPort functions by the end of Tuesday. Wednesday, we recovered the audio.pacificaradioarchives.org website which Brian Deshazor urgently needed to be active for the grant has been working on for years.

Unfortunately some of the database information to recreate the Joomla website on the Pacifica National websites was not copied over to the backup hard drive and will need to be redesigned as a single national website as time and funds permit.

Concerning redundancy for websites: The best practice for fast recovery of a website it to have a RAID 0 system in place for each drive with data on it. (RAID stands for a Redundant Array of Inexpensive Drives). The Pacifica National server has four drives currently and only room for two more drives.

We suggest that Pacifica pay to RAID the Boot Drive, which contains the Operating System, all the Website software and webpages and the streaming and recording software. The growing numbers of AudioPort audio files are currently taking up 1.8 TB of space and the amount of space needed is constantly growing larger. We need to have a comprehensive strategy to deal with the AudioPort issue. We are currently developing a comprehensive plan to combine and for redesign the Pacifica national website. All of these plans will take funds to implement.

Jon Almeleh
Otis Maclay
Pacifica Technology Team