

*Minutes adopted at 08.11.2021 Meeting*  
**WBAI Local Station Board July 2021 Meeting**

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## **Call to Order**

Regular meeting of the WBAI Local Station Board, convened remotely due to COVID. Held via Zoom on July 14th, 2021. [Link to Zoom video and audio recordings.](#)

Meeting is presided over by Carolyn McIntyre with Charlotte Albrecht as Secretary.

[Link to the roll call vote record.](#)

## **Approval of Agenda**

Agenda is adopted by acclamation (see below).

1. Convene meeting.
2. Adopt Agenda (20 minutes)
3. Roll Call (5 minutes)
4. Excuse absences (5 minutes).
5. Announcement of the Chair (1 minute)
6. Approve outstanding minutes: [June 9, 2021](#) (5 minutes)
7. Chair's Update About Pacifica's Executive Director's Response to Management Evaluation Report and Recommendations (1 Minute)
8. Report from Pacifica National Board Directors (5 minutes) — Alex Steinberg, Ralph Poynter, Shawn Rhodes, James Sagurton
9. Discussion of Results of Bylaws Referendum and Any Next Steps (15 minutes) – Alex Steinberg, Ralph Poynter, Shawn Rhodes, James Sagurton
10. Nominations for PNB Elections Committee Member to replace Charlotte (3 minutes)
11. Report from Community Advisory Board (2 Minutes) — Neale Voss
12. [General Manager's Report](#) (8 minutes for report & 6 minutes for discussion) — Berthold Reimers
  - a. [Profit & Loss Statement June 30, 2021](#)

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13. [Treasurer's Report](#) (5 minutes report 5 minutes discussion) — R. Paul Martin
14. [Programming Updates](#) (5 minutes for report & 5 minutes Q&A) — Berthold Reimers filling in for Linda Perry
15. Discussion: Programming Policy and Practices (20 minutes) — Basir Mchawi
16. Report from Fundraising Task Force (1 minute) — Maxine Harrison-Gallmon & DeeDee Halleck
17. Report of LSB Committee of Inclusion (2 minutes) — William Heerwagen
18. Discussion: Updating Covid Precautions (Including w/ Respect to LSB Meetings); Discerning/Balancing Competing Health Risks; Alignment of Station/Programming With Government & Pharmaceutical Industry Promoted Policies (18 Minutes)
19. [Resolution Supporting Use of Rotating Fundraising Slots in New 52-Week Schedule As Opportunity For Content-Based Fundraising That Builds Listenership](#) (5 minutes) — Michael D. D. White
20. Discussion: Improving WBAI and Pacifica Reputation and Brand (10 minutes)
21. Discussion: Program Evaluation Criteria (5 Minutes)
22. Discussion: Creation of Ad Hoc Programming Advisory Committee (5 Minutes)
23. Raising money for COVID affected people (2 minutes) — Errol Maitland
24. Motion Respecting Hiring a Full Time Pacifica Foundation Executive Director and Funding That Person's Compensation (4 minutes) — Mitch Cohen
25. Public Comment. (30 minutes, 2 minutes maximum per speaker before next in queue to speak. Must always begin no later than 9:15 PM ET.)
26. Unfinished Business (5 minutes)
27. New Business
28. Adjourn no later than 9:45 PM. (ET)

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## **Attendance**

**Voting Members in attendance:** Charlotte Albrecht, John Brinkley, Mitchel Cohen. Jack DePalma, DeeDee Halleck, Maxine Harrison-Gallmon, William Heerwagen, Errol Maitland, R Paul Martin, Basir Mchawi, Carolyn McIntyre, Hazel Pinder, Shawn Rhodes, Sharonne Salaam, James Sagurton, Alex Steinberg, Marilyn Vogt-Downey, Michael White

**Absent:** Shya Bey, Jack Devine, King Downing, Ralph Poynter, Max Schmid, Amy Wilson

Michael motions to excuse all absences at today's meeting, John Brinkley seconds. No objections.

## **Reports and Main Business**

**Approve outstanding minutes.** Michael moves to adopt minutes for June 9th, 2021. No objections.

**Chair's Update About Pacifica's Executive Director's Response to Management Evaluation Report and Recommendations.** No response yet.

**Report from Pacifica National Board Directors.** James: 2020 Audit completed. Not yet sent to the attorney general. In January, they got an extension to complete it, now using that time to complete more tax forms and complete outstanding audits of pension funds payment. This now allows for the possibility of having "unqualified audit" instead of "qualified audit."

- Marilyn: Which stations are the most solvent? KPFA most, KPFK least. WBAI is running a deficit, but a small one. The KPFT general manager resigned.

**Discussion of Results of Bylaws Referendum and Any Next Steps.** Alex: 54% of Listeners voted in favor, but 56% of staff voted against. Because both types of members have to be won, the referendum fails. New Day agreed to abide by the same rules as the last referendum, so there can be no argument. They may want to go to court over it, but the Pacifica attorney says there is no case.

Alex believes they acted unethically, spreading disinformation. Of course, there are real issues Pacifica has to face. We are not in a good place financially, and still have a loan to be paid off. Alex thinks there are a few changes in the omnibus referendum that are reasonable, but they were lumped together with the undemocratic measures. These reforms should be introduced to the PNB individually, through the normal process instead of putting us through a referendum. A smaller board could be good. It's an open question how we the people who are suing Pacifica accountable.

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James moves to extend this section by 5 minutes so we can get to questions and comments. Sharonne objects. Amended to 3 min by Michael. James seconds. No objections.

- Marilyn: This is something to celebrate! Let's recognize everyone's hard work and take a moment to savor the win.
- Errol: do we know how the vote broke down by station? Alex: Don't have that yet. Could make an educated guess that we won at WBAI and WPFW.
- Michael motions to add 3 minutes. James seconds. No objections.
- Hazel: a listener she called during a Fightback phone bank asked for a disability rights show.
- James: New Day complained that staff shouldn't have a separate election. Our bylaws are based in CA law, so if that's their main legal theory, we'd win a suit hands down.
- R Paul: we have to continue to fight, not wait until they inevitably bring another referendum next year.

**Nominations for PNB Elections Committee Member to replace Charlotte.** Charlotte said she emailed the committee to resign, citing capacity issues. Carolyn asked for nominations. stepped up. R Paul moves to push this to the next meeting, Michael seconds. No objections.

**Report from Community Advisory Board.** Failed to make quorum last month, so they didn't meet. Get information for next meeting from KPFTX.org.

**General Manager's Report.** Berthold presents the report, found [here](#). Goes over June [Profit & Loss Statement](#). Then, questions and discussion.

- Charlotte: where are April, May, June on the P&L statement? Berthold: doesn't have the figures yet, webmaster running them.
- Michael: Do we have a PSA policy? Berthold: They are sent to us, reviewed by the Program Director, then we run them.
- James: what do we owe to Central Services? Why is there a discrepancy with NETA's figures? Berthold: *(most of this response was inaudible to me - Charlotte)* we always give 100% of egress to the national office, we don't withhold for the station. Small differences in line items.

**Treasurer's report.** Written report [here](#). Presented by R. Paul. IRS 990s will be in by August 19th. NETA is using the extra weeks to restate the audit with pension expenses included. This will help our bottomline. FY19 and FY20 audits were not yet submitted directly to the California AG office. People thought they sent it to a lawyer who helps nonprofits file, and he forwarded it to AG. So, we will not actually be able to apply this year. An upside: this still puts us in line to

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meet criteria for lots of community service grants. Will also give us a chance to increase listenership for CPB.

WBAI had a lot of miscellaneous revenue this month, but we can't count on bequests and government money. The FY22 budget will be presented by GM at the next meeting. The next Local Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 7/21 at 7 pm ET. The next regular National Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 7/27 at 8:30 PM (ET). See KPFTX.org.

- Marilyn: entering a new era, now that we can access funds we couldn't before.
- Alex: a point about PPP funding — it may have saved us, but we also did lose money because of the pandemic.

**Programming Updates.** Charlotte reads [Linda's programming updates](#) aloud after a brief introduction from Berthold.

Questions and comments.

- John: there's a new show about Caribbean issues. What happened to Kim Ives' program? Berthold: not a quality program.
- Michael: what's going on with Randy Credico being off the air? Can we get him on a special? Berthold: Randy is on hiatus.
- Marilyn: lots of changes in grid, we need to establish a more regular schedule. Berthold: majority of these have to do with people being on hiatus.
- Mitch: there was a very interesting debate between Johanna Fernandez and Gary Null. This morning Johanna's show played clips from Null's show where he criticized critical race theory and Black Lives Matter) and she responded to them on air. This was very informative, how can we have more of this? Berthold: while it is not always good practice to criticize other WBAI hosts, it's been posed to them that they have a live debate.
- Sharonne: how is management working with programmers to support them through all of these schedule changes? Marilyn points out this may fold into the next section.

Michael moves to extend by 3 minutes. No second.

**Discussion: Programming Policy and Practices.** Basir introduces an open discussion on the subject. Basir: today, people listen to *programs* — not the *station*. Listeners feel there should be an evaluation process for programs. Certain communities' needs are not being met. In last year's Management Evaluation Committee report, we talked about needing more transparency about how programming decisions are made. Discusses the concept of an organized "white backlash" to the current political climate. WBAI is not prepared to address developing political

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situations (for example: Cuba, Haiti) as a *station*, programs coming together in synthesis. We need to return to the *community radio* model in order to increase listenership.

Stack is open to others.

- Jack: WBAI has a community, but we do not always work together. Also, the Johanna v Null debate was about implicit bias, not critical race theory.
- Erroll: sometimes it's painful to listen to WBAI. Dominated by programs that make the most money, but are often responsible for harmful misinformation. We've drifted from our mission. We need to address producers who use the station to make money by essentially airing infomercials. Unsure if LSB can even do anything about this. We can't return to the good old days of addressing only white issues on air.
- Mitch: Basir, what kind of mechanisms can we use to implement these much needed changes? I can work on a plan with you to present at the next meeting.
- Basir: having a meeting with producers, and potentially LSB, is a good first step.
- John: with access to new funds, we have an opportunity to dedicate less time to constant fundraising and plan a "rebirth" of the station with coherent programming.
- Alex: economics currently dictates programming. We need to find other revenue streams, if we want to WBAI to be solvent.
- Charlotte: Gary Null spreads misinformation. It's upsetting to hear his lies alongside PSA's with information meant to help people navigate COVID.

**Report from Fundraising Task Force.** Dee Dee is working on a letter to producers. Inspired by the conversation just now. Needs to be approved by Berthold, Linda. Points out that CPB funding is extremely competitive. We need someone on staff to coordinate fundraising. There's no shared history or coordination for initiatives. Need graphics for promotional material.

**Report of LSB Committee of Inclusion.** William Heerwagen reports that they did not make quorum at last meeting, will be meeting this Monday at 7 pm instead.

**Discussion: Updating Covid Precautions (Including w/ Respect to LSB Meetings); Discerning/Balancing Competing Health Risks; Alignment of Station/Programming With Government & Pharmaceutical Industry Promoted Policies.** Michael White introduces this agenda item. Outlines considerations for when/if LSB returns to in-person meetings and the station re-opens. Some workplaces reopening now require proof of vaccination. Michael believes that this will be a problem for WBAI and for LSB meetings, which relies on volunteers, some of whom may have different viewpoints on the efficacy of vaccines. Some people don't trust the government and pharmaceutical companies. This would disenfranchise a political population of WBAI and influence the politics of the station.

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There is a more discussion centering around the efficacy of vaccines, with opposing viewpoints represented.

*Public comment begins at 9:15.*

*Meeting adjourns at 9:45.*

**Agenda items we did not get to:**

[Resolution Supporting Use of Rotating Fundraising Slots in New 52-Week Schedule As Opportunity For Content-Based Fundraising That Builds Listenership](#) (5 minutes) — Michael D. D. White

Discussion: Improving WBAI and Pacifica Reputation and Brand (10 minutes)

Discussion: Program Evaluation Criteria (5 Minutes)

Discussion: Creation of Ad Hoc Programming Advisory Committee (5 Minutes)

Raising money for COVID affected people (2 minutes) — Errol Maitland

Motion Respecting Hiring a Full Time Pacifica Foundation Executive Director and Funding That Person's Compensation (4 minutes) — Mitch Cohen