

WPFW LSB -- Relocation Committee

May 11, 2015 – Meeting Notes

Howard University School of Architecture - 2366 Sixth Street, NW, Washington, DC.

In attendance: Brad Grant (Acting Chair), Jane Gatewood (Acting Sec'y), Maskeelah Washington, Eric Ramey, Martha Peterson, Arthur McCloud, Jabari Zakiya, Thomas O'Rourke, Michael Byfield

Meeting started at 6:40 pm

Regular Meeting Time - The potential for a meeting date other than Monday was considered. After discussion, we agreed that, for at least the next three months, the committee will continue to meet at Howard on the Monday prior to the LSB meeting, which will be: **Jun 8, Jul 6, and Aug 10.**

Election of chair and secretary - No volunteers stepped forward for either position, and it was agreed by acclamation that Brad and Jane will serve as Acting Chair and Secretary until others step forward with willingness to serve in these positions.

Update on current space - Brad asked those present how things are going in our new space. Arthur noted concern about broken toilet. Brad will follow-up with Tiffany and our contractor.

Process to move forward with permanent home for WPFW

Timeline - Given that our lease expires in 3.5 years, it was proposed that we target June 1, 2017 to have a permanent home located, which will give us 18 months to prepare the space and get ready for the move. Questions were raised about becoming financially viable to purchase space in that time. Maskeelah suggested that a lease with purchase option may give more time.

Partnerships/Organizational Structure Thomas proposed considering partnership to locate with other media entity (similar to DCTV), school, or government assistance. Jabari argued that we should maintain independence. Jane suggested desirability of establishing an entity separate from Pacifica to own the building so that, no matter what happens with Pacifica, WPFW will survive. Jabari asked that we accept the fact that Pacifica will own the building and be the point for the money. This view was met with general acceptance.

Need for Benchmarks— Jabari noted that it is essential that everyone -- from the LSB, the community, management, and Pacifica -- be working together in a unified harmonious manner. He suggested that, to do this, we need to establish benchmarks beginning with:

1. Find knowledgeable professionals (realtors, architects, engineers, etc) to work with us
2. Identify best practices in re-location (Contact other local stations/ Talk with Amy Goodman, etc)

Brad shared information about the firm Cresa, which the LSB in 2013 had approved engaging as our Realtor. They would have been paid out of the proceeds of a lease or purchase, once they got us into a new space. The process Cresa would have undertaken would have begun with a strategic planning process. They have engineers, architects and finance people on staff who would have been involved as needed. This proposal fell through the cracks because, while the LSB had approved it overwhelmingly, it was not supported by either the LSB chair (Yves) or the-iGM (Michelle Price). When Cresa recognized that we were not all on the same page, they withdrew their offer; but they indicated a willingness to reconsider taking us on a client whenever we get things together.

After further discussion, we set July 6 as target date to have a solid framework articulated, to present to the LSB for adoption.

Action steps

- Maskeela will research to see if any firms other than Cresa should be considered (ideally we can identify two to three options)
- Thomas will research DCPS – potential of navigating maze of free properties
- Michael Byfield will research establishing a "Building Fund" and what that means.
- Eric Ramey and Brad Grant will research other radio stations

Meeting adjourned 8:40 pm