

04/18/06 WPFW LSB Meeting - Minutes

WPFW Local Station Board Meeting

April 18th, 7:00 p.m.

2390 Champlain Street, NW, Washington, DC 20009

Quorum declared at 7:45 P.M., Carol Wolfe serving as Chair.

Board Members present: Acie Byrd, Ambrose Lane , Ayo Handy Kendi, Billy Ray Edwards, Cade Campbell, Carol Wolfe, Gloria Turner, Jane Gatewood, Jim Brown, Joni Eisenberg, Luzette King, Norberto Martinez, Thomas Ruffin, and Zarina Shakir.

Absent: Donnie McKethan.

Excused Absences: Dan Logan, Hakam Takash, Joe Chiara, Kalonji Olusegun, Mark Berman, Mark Roberts, and Rob Robinson.

Also present were WPFW General Manager Ron Pinchback; two officers of the Pacifica Foundation, Executive Director Greg Guma and Chief Financial Officer Lonnie Hicks; and Carl Pfluger, nominated in January to be secretary of the LSB.

Amendments to Agenda: Without objection, it was agreed to bring forward (to immediately after approval of the minutes) the items dealing with the Board's composition: election of a new secretary, and replacement of the lately resigned members, Katea Stitt and Sarah Bittle; and to move Community Comment ahead of New Business, so that Norberto's Central American guests would have a chance to speak. Thomas Ruffin moved that his complaint of racial discrimination concerning his non-inclusion in the Management Assessment and Search Committee (MASC) be added to the agenda. Seconded by Billy Ray Edwards, the motion was defeated, 5Y, 6N, 1A.

Joni Eisenberg moved acceptance of the revised agenda, seconded by Jim Brown. Approved, 8-1.

Minutes of March Meeting: Thomas Ruffin objected that the minutes made no reference to his complaint; the Chair ruled that minutes need record only motions actually brought to a vote.

Ambrose Lane moved acceptance of March minutes, seconded by Acie Byrd.
Approved, 6Y, 5N, 1A.

Replacement of Secretary: Jane Gatewood can not continue as secretary. She reports that plans are in motion to make the sound recordings of LSB meetings available online via KPFT's web server, hopefully beginning with this month's meeting, if nothing goes wrong with the technical details. A public Service Announcement (PSA) was aired this past month, inviting volunteers for the (non-voting) position of LSB secretary. Carl Pfluger, the only candidate available, was elected Secretary without objection.

9:00 P.M. Replacement of resigned Staff Member Katea Stitt : After 35 minutes of discussion concerning what the Bylaws authorize the Board or the Staff to do, a Resolution, moved by Jim Brown, seconded by Acie Byrd, revised by Jane Gatewood, was finally put to the question:

“That the entire paid and unpaid Staff of WPFW be allowed to elect a replacement for Katea Stitt, and that a volunteer Election Supervisor be utilized to conduct the election, to ensure that it complies with the bylaws, and that all Staff Members are fully informed and allowed to participate.”

Motion passed, 9-1.

Replacement of resigned Listener Member Sarah Bittle: Chairwoman Wolfe declares that the Bylaws say the replacement should be the next-ranked candidate in the last election, Alicia Milla; but she has indicated (in communications to both Carol Wolfe & Acie Byrd) that she is no longer available. Next choice is then Amanda Sweet, whom Carol will contact next. Luzette King says she knows that Amanda is still active in some WPFW committee[s], and so presumably should be available; but in case she is not, Carol should proceed to the next name[s] on the electoral list.

Committee Reports. [Theoretically limited to 90 seconds each.]

MASC Committee Report by Jim Brown. The Committee intends to use an evaluation process developed by the Pacifica National Board (PNB), and is preparing a public announcement for the position of Program Director.

Luzette suggests the committee’s membership should be open to anyone who volunteers, and that it should submit regular reports and minutes to the LSB.

Jane moves that the Committee not make the decisions on evaluation; the motion dies without a second.

Development and Outreach Committee. Ayo Handi Kendy has written a self-evaluation form for the Outreach Committee. Gloria Turner announces a Volunteer Appreciation Event.

Technology Committee. Zarinah Shakir reports that the Committee has not yet met, but it’s clear the station needs a lot of serious upgrading.

Luzette suggests an inventory of all the station’s equipment.

Response: Such an inventory already exists. It may require a bit of updating, to cover some recent acquisitions, but it is substantially complete, and both Ron and Jim have access to it.

General Manager's Report, and presentations by visiting Pacifica Foundation Officers.

Ron Pinchback distributed a printed summary, and yielded most of his speaking time to Executive Director Greg Guma and Chief Financial Officer Lonnie Hicks. Major issues discussed were financing and program development. Lonnie explained Pacifica's general formula for distributing financial responsibilities among the five stations: the Big Three (KPFA, KPFK, & WBAI) each get 25% of the total; the two smaller stations (KPFT & WPFW) have 12.5% each. In general, WPFW has been the most financially healthy of the 5 Pacifica stations, but all public broadcasting faces an uncertain future. Greg Guma hopes to raise the profile of Pacifica as a national network, and to bring in more young listeners, both by presenting Pacifica's programs more actively to the affiliated stations, and by encouraging creative program development in each of Pacifica's own stations. But the actual development of programs is still mostly the task of the individual stations and their managers. Several upcoming initiatives were mentioned, of which the most urgent should be coverage of the approaching elections: both Pacifica's own LSB elections, & the US Congressional midterms. They did not stay for questions, pointing out that the meeting had already gone far beyond its announced timetable.

Community Comment. About 9:50 P.M. the Chair moved that Community Comment be advanced to precede the Pacifica National Board (PNB) reports, in view of the lateness of the hour. Approved, 9-0. It was already too late for Norberto's guest, a Mayan leader from El Salvador, so Norberto made a brief presentation on his behalf.

Reports on Meeting of Pacifica National Board (PNB): Ambrose Lane reports (orally) that the meeting included a good workshop on racism, but that he was unable to complete a written report because he (together with the whole National Board) was laid low by food poisoning. He expects to have a report written up by next month. Billy Ray has questions about election disputes previously referred to the PNB; Ambrose says that, to his knowledge, the Board has not so far acted on the issue.

10:20 P.M. Meeting adjourned.