



WPFW COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

February 23, 2015

William O. Lockridge/Bellvue Library

Attendees: Aminyah Muhammed-M'backé (Chair), Nancy Switkes (Co-Secretary), Antonio Johnson-Bey, Thomas Alan Young, Toussaint Tingling-Clemmons, Collette M. Dawud, Phillip Everett, Astrid G. Munn, Joseph Kitchen and Carlos Ellerbe Jones.

Brittani Riddle was excused as absent.

WPFW Staff: None

Guests: Bob Griss.

ROLL CALL

All members were in attendance and quorum was met. Meeting on the record at 7:00 pm as a continuation of a meeting that took place on January 26, 2015.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Antonio Johnson-Bey made a motion to ratify and approve the agenda, deleting the agenda item regarding. Toussaint Tingling-Clemmons seconded it. It was approved without objection.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES AND TWO RESOLUTIONS

Since changes were made to the July and November 2015 Meeting Minutes, Aminyah made a motion to ratify both sets of Minutes and the two Resolutions: Resolution #0023- on Official CAB Description, and; Resolution #0024- on Pre-

miums Not Sent to Listeners. Nancy seconded the motion and it passed by a vote of two yeses (Aminyah and Nancy) and eight abstentions.

Nancy and Aminyah talked more about the Resolutions on to illustrate the basic mechanism by which the CAB works. During the Survey many Community Members spoke of not receiving an expected and promised gift for their paid pledge. Their disappointment and anger was heard. Nancy spoke about the mechanism of the resolution as CAB's method of advising the LSB and WPFW's staff. The recommendation to communicate with those who did not receive their premium gift is a resolution that was passed in 2014 and will soon be presented to the station after a conversation with management and LSB.

SEATING OF NEW CAB BOARD MEMBERS

Aminyah spoke about:

- The 2015 CAB goal of reaching out to the listenership to touch every one of the 20,000 WPFW members,
- The objectivity that the eight new members bring, by not having been involved or entangled with any previous CAB or LSB members or programmers. This will be a strength in objectively reviewing the programming goals and major policy decisions of WPFW and whether goals and decisions are meeting the needs of the community.
- The eight new Members are intentionally representative of different parts of the community, geographically and professionally.
- All eight members were officially seated contingent upon completing the upcoming Board Orientation. Officers will be appointed at the March meeting.

A 3-hour CAB Board Orientation will take place on Saturday, March 7 at 2:00 pm and will include the new CAB requirement of signing a Conflict of Interest form and Disclosure Statement.

Each CAB Member introduced themselves and made a statement about what they are able to contribute to the CAB:

- DC native **Antonio Johnson Bey** brings great communication skills to CAB and works at the Department of Housing and Community Development. His background includes teaching reading and writing to young adults and helping people obtain their GED.

- **Carlos Ellerbe Jones** runs youth programs and academic reinforcement centers. He shared that the children he teaches request that radio stations (with damaging messages and words) be on during their study sessions. He wants to replace that with WPFW and its positive messages.

All the CAB members want to make the station less invisible.

LISTENER COMMENTS

Sociologist Bob Griss is interested in media as a tool for changing the society. He is glad to see the new board representing such a cross-section of the community. He spoke of Pacifica originator Lew Hill's 1940's pacifism. He is disappointed in the CAB Survey of 2014.

What excites him about Pacifica is how to create a culture of peace and of politics that transforms the capitalist system. His policy paper on WPFW and Pacifica raises significant questions about the structure and obstacles of the organizations and his upcoming panel discussion will host people from LSB, Concerned Members and Supporters and a programmer that was fired.

Aminyah pointed out that, of the five sister stations of Pacifica, only WPFW incorporates jazz and music formats that jazz influences. The other four stations are more directed toward talk and public affairs. When you serve people who are voiceless and shut out of the media, you have to learn ways to reach them, such as the music they engage with.

ISSUES

Discussions touching on many relevant issues were had by new members:

- The need to reach the children whose parents are not being heard on WPFW;
- Why a listener-supported radio station is leasing or has leased in high-priced neighborhoods like Wall Street and K Street, NW;
- The risks of corruption and influence with allowing underwriting of programs and the station regardless of who the underwriter is. Toussaint offered his experience hosting a DCTV show. He discussed the difficulty of exercising rules around underwriting and how very hard it is to legislate well. So he and his co-producers chose to exclude ALL underwriting;
- Lew Hill originated the very first listener-supported radio station anywhere: Pacifica. We must keep WPFW on target with meeting the needs of its listener base, as any membership organization does;

- Multiple methodologies such as town hall meetings that can assist CAB in getting input from the community will be brainstormed at the March meeting.

THE SURVEY

Aminyah, speaking as a Member rather than as the Chair, responded to Bob that the input Nancy, she and he offered about the survey methodology of the 2014 CAB Survey was ignored. Additionally, The survey instrument, methodology and final questions on the Survey were never voted on or approved by the CAB. Finally, the members of the CAB never had an opportunity to review the report that was presented on the Survey results and did not vote on or approve that report either prior to or after its public presentation to the LSB and community.

STATION MANAGEMENT UPDATE

No update or report was provided, live or written, from station management. Aminyah stated that one CAB Board Member will need to engage with the station management and devise a method for getting regular updates of what is going on at the station, along with programming or grid changes. Improved communications between CAB and station management is a goal for 2015.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

The next monthly meeting will be held on March 16, convening at 6:30 pm (meeting will start at 7:00 pm), location TBD.

Signed this 20th day of April 2015 by my hand:



Nancy Switkes, Co-Secretary
WPFW Community Advisory Board