

Minutes:

WPFW Local Station Board Meeting

2390 Champlain Street NW, Washington, DC 20009

11 October 2006

Quorum declared at 7:20 P.M., Carol Wolfe serving as chair.

Board Members present for the roll call: Jim Brown, Acie Byrd, Billy Ray Edwards, Joni Eisenberg, Jane Gatewood, Ayo Handy-Kendi, Luzette King, Ambrose Lane, Dan Logan, Mark Roberts, Rob Robinson, Zarinah Shakir, Amanda Sweet, Carol Wolfe.

Absent: Joe Chiara, Norberto Martinez, Kalonji Olusegun, Thomas Ruffin, Hakam Takash.

Excused Absences: Mark Berman, Gloria Turner.

Also Present: Ron Pinchback, WPFW General Manager, and Carl Pfluger, LSB Secretary.

Attendance: Zarinah Shakir moved to vote on excusing absences, seconded by Joni Eisenberg. Mark Berman's request to be excused was accepted, 10-1, Gloria Turner's accepted 12-0, but Joe Chiara's request was rejected 8-3, several members expressing concern that, excused or not, his absences have been continuous since February 8th, and that he has consistently refused to communicate with the LSB Secretary.

Amendments to the Agenda: Review and approval of the Minutes of the past 3 meetings was deferred. An item was inserted to elect a temporary Vice Chair for this meeting. Additions were made to the Reports, specifically to include Management Assessment & Search Committee (MASC), and Pacifica National Board (PNB) Committee Reports. Two items were added to New Business: on LSB responsibilities for the Pledge Drive, and on establishing policies on excused absences and excessive absences. Thus amended, the Agenda was adopted, as moved by Ambrose Lane & seconded by Mark Roberts.

Election of Temporary Vice Chair: Jane nominated Ayo, who declined; Ambrose, seconded by Ayo, nominated Zarinah, who at first declined, but accepted after being reassured that this would not be a permanent position, but only for this session. Zarinah was then elected without objection.

## Reports

Election Coordinator's Report, by Ikeso Alston: Thanks to the extension of the nomination process, we seem to have enough candidates to fill all seats on the LSB, pending the expected completion of their paperwork. There is ambiguity about the status of Norberto Martinez: he has been serving as a listener member, and is running as such in this election, but he has recently joined the Staff. It was decided to refer this to Les Radke, the National Elections Supervisor, and to ask him for a written decision on it. Ron Pinchback observed that Hakam Takash is in a similarly ambiguous position, since he has been serving as a staff member, but has recently left the Staff. The Secretary noted that he has recorded more than 3 consecutive absences for Hakam Takash.

General Manager's Report, by Ron Pinchback: We are heading into an especially busy time, with the Pledge Drive coming up simultaneously with the LSB elections, and the US national elections, for which we are adding a weekly broadcast (Wednesdays at 11:00 A.M.) of the Pacifica program "Informed Dissent," which will be airing until mid-November. Also on Wednesdays, 5:00 A.M to 8:00 A.M., WPFW will be airing a new program, "The Morning Messenger," hosted by Jared Ball of the "Blackacademics" program. LSB members are strongly urged to help out in any ways they can with the Drive; they should contact Tiffany Jordan, WPFW's Director of Development, about it.

PNB Reports & Ensuing Discussions: Rob Robinson distributed to the LSB a printed report, for which he was thanked by Billy Ray Edwards. Oral presentations concerning the recent meeting of the Pacifica National Board were also made by Rob, Acie Byrd, Ambrose Lane, and Zarinah Shakir. Main points included planned coverage of the US Government's recent suspension of habeas corpus, maintenance of Pacifica's radio archives, arrangements with Free Speech Radio News (FSRN), licensing and distribution policies, problems with our current election.

Carol Wolfe, seconded by Ayo Handy-Kendi, moved that the LSB should appoint a committee to look into the possibility of obtaining professional help to achieve a process of collective healing, mediation, conflict resolution, etc., and report its recommendations back to the LSB at the next meeting. This resolution passed, 11-0. A second resolution, authorizing Carol to appoint the members of this committee, and instructing her to inform the LSB of her selections, passed 9-0.

Management Assessment & Search Committee (MASC) Report: Jim Brown reported orally, and answered questions from Jane, Joni, Billy Ray, and Luzette.

Miscellaneous Brief Reports & Comments, mostly related to outreach & promotion of WPFW's mission & events: Joni reported a successful fund-raiser in connection with a health workshop on the weekend of October 1st. Dan reported that the Programming Committee is working on a historical brochure relating to our jazz programming, which could serve to promote interest in the community. Luzette observed that a better evaluation process and more training could raise the quality of our some of our programming. Ayo outlined her self-evaluation and "WPFW Ambassadors" initiatives (which the Chair had forwarded to all members in an email of August 2nd) and on Gloria's behalf, she reminded all of the Volunteer Appreciation Awards Ceremony coming up on Saturday, November 4th, 6:30-11:00 P.M., at the Prince Hall Freemason and Eastern Star Charitable Foundation Center, 1000 U Street NW. Again, all LSB members are urged to participate in all such events as fully as possible: Tiffany Jordan, our Director of Development, has more than enough work for everyone.

Community Comment: The Chair noted for the record that no members of the community were present.

LSB Elections: Jane noted that ballot counting is set for December 15th, and our next regular meeting for the 13th; that meeting should perhaps be rescheduled to a later date, so that the LSB will know its new membership, and be able to elect its new officers, as the Bylaws (Article 7, Section 5) mandate to be done in December.

Adjournment: At about 10:30 P.M, 7 members voting for adjournment, 2 abstaining.

Agenda Items Never Discussed: Preparing an Elections Committee; Establishing a clear policy on absences, excused & unexcused; Review & approval of Minutes of the previous 3 meetings.