

Draft Minutes WBAI LSB Meeting in public session 7 pm ET, Wednesday, 7-12-23

Attending: Rachel Barr, Doc Shya Bey, John Brinkley, Jack De Palma, Eleanor Elizabeth Forman, Dee Dee Halleck, Maxine Harrison-Gallman, Bounubti Kamentou, R. Paul Martin, Basir MChawi, Katherine O'Sullivan, Hazel Pinder, Shawn Rhodes, James Sagurton, Sharonne Salaam, Max Schmid, Marilyn Vogt-Downey, Michael D.D. White

Absent: Scottye Battle, Priscilla Cancar, Jack DeVine, Jim Dingeman, Andre Ward

Also present: Berthold Reimers, Linda Perry, Kay Williams

Errol Maitland resigned the LSB this afternoon by email.

#### Final Agenda

1. Convene meeting- (Ask for recording of the meeting to be started and confirm designated time keeper. Note how chat is to be used.) (1 minute)
2. Adopt Agenda. (20 minutes)
3. Roll Call. (5 minutes)
4. Excuse Absences (5 minutes)
5. Approve outstanding minutes: June 14, 2023 Meeting (5 minutes)
6. Report from Pacifica National Board Directors Including election updates and deadline and reducing cost of voting. (7 minutes & 5 minutes discussion) - Shawn Rhodes, James Sagurton, Sharonne Salaam, Jim Dingeman.
7. General Manager's Report. (10 Minutes report 10 minutes discussion) - Berthold Reimers
8. Programming Updates. (5 minutes report, 5 minutes Q&A) - Linda Perry
9. Treasurer's Report. - (5 Minutes report 5 minutes discussion) - R. Paul Martin
10. Discussion, Possible Action To be Taken, Resolution: Persecution and Assassination of Journalists (e.g. Julian Assange) With Multiple WBAI Journalists Now On Ukranian Government Endorsed Kill List Promoted By US w/ Taxpayer Dollars Including NATO hosting and CIA backing. (15 minutes) - Michael D. D. White.
11. Report from Community Advisory Board - (2 Minutes) - Neale Vos
12. Resolution: "Establishment of quarterly virtual LSB meetings with WBAI listeners and staff." (5 minutes) – Bashir Mchawi
13. Resolution: The LSB will set up a process whereby, on a case by case basis, between now and June 2024, it can act to grant hardship waivers to certain listeners allowing them to vote in WBAI elections without donating the otherwise required \$25 or volunteer work minimum. (8 Minutes) - Eleanor Elizabeth Forman
14. Resolution To Ensure Careful, Curated, Appropriately Promoted WBAI Art Auctions. (10 minutes) - James Sagurton
15. Resolution Reflecting Proposal Generated by LOFT Committee Re Fund Raising Data Allocations To Programs. (10 Minutes report 5 minutes discussion) - Jim Dingeman
16. Management Evaluation Committee Report and Request To LSB Members to Furnish Assessments. (3 Minutes) - Michael D. D. White.
17. Report on Town Hall Discussions: - (3 Minutes) - Michael D. D. White/Jim Dingeman/Eleanor Elizabeth Forman.
18. Resolution regarding functionality of email address for public to contact members of the LSB. (10 Minutes) - Eleanor Elizabeth Forman
19. Competing Successfully With the Internet vs And/or Becoming Internet Successful and Recent Anti-Trust Litigation Against Corporate Legacy Media's "Trusted News Initiative" + Restrict Act (5 minutes) - Michael D. D. White
20. Discussion: Improving WBAI and Pacifica Reputation and Brand. (10 minutes) - Michael D. D. White

21. Discussion: Adjournment Time of LSB meeting(s) (5 minutes) Dr. Shya Bey
22. Public Comment. (30 minutes, 2 minutes maximum per speaker before next in queue to speak. Must always begin no later than 9:15 PM.)
23. New Business.
24. Adjourn no later than 9:45 PM. (ET)

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7:16 pm ET The meeting was called to order by Co-chair Michael D.D. White by request of the Chair, Dee Dee Halleck, who was going to be delayed to the meeting. He called the meeting to order and started the recording when a quorum was present.

7:23 pm ET Reading of the Agenda (Kay Williams)

7:28 pm ET Motion (Katherine O'Sullivan) To adopt the agenda. Seconded.

7:28 pm ET Amendment (Eleanor Elizabeth Forman) To add an item to the agenda to start a PD search committee. Seconded.

The Board began to discuss the amendment.

Point of Order (R. Paul Martin) This amendment is out of order because the position hasn't been vacated; therefore, it is inappropriate to propose a search committee and could be seen as a harassment issue.

The Chair ruled the amendment out of order.

7:32 pm ET Appealing of the chair's ruling (Eleanor Elizabeth Forman) Seconded.

The chair heard pro and con arguments regarding the chair's ruling.

A roll call vote was taken on whether or not the Chair's ruling shall stand. The chair's ruling was affirmed with 8 yeses, 3 no's, and 3 abstentions.

7:46 pm ET The Chair called for whether there were any objections to the original motion to adopt the agenda. There were none so the agenda was adopted.

7:50 pm ET Roll Call was taken with 18 present, 5 absent, and excuses were sent in advance by 3 of those.

7:55 pm ET Motion (Jack de Palma) To excuse all absences. Seconded.

Amendment (Eleanor Elizabeth Forman) To approve absences only for those who have submitted legitimate excuses.

As the amendment received no second, the original motion passed without objection.

Point of information (Eleanor Elizabeth Forman) How will Erroll Maitland's position be filled?

The Chair stated that they will go back and find whoever was the next runner up and ask that person if they want to fill the position, and, if that person agrees, they will inform the Board and seat that person on the Board.

7:57 pm ET (Katherine O'Sullivan) Motion to waive the reading of the minutes and to approve the minutes of the last meeting 6-14-23 sent to all the members. Seconded. Passed without objection.

8:00 pm ET Pacifica National Board Report (James Dingeman, Shawn Rhodes, Sharonne Salaam)

#### Highlights

- It costs \$34 for a printed ballot and \$1 plus change for an electronic ballot. Last election only 5% voted by paper ballot. A motion to ask members who wished to use a paper ballot to pay a fee for that was defeated. Instead, the election cart will encourage people to use electronic ballot if at all possible.

- Some candidates had trouble completing the nominating process. The PNB voted to extend the process 1 week but the NES didn't see this. Her main concern is that this election proceed in a timely manner since it's a court-ordered process. She extended the process of collecting nominations until July 6<sup>th</sup> and the deadline for completing election packages another 3 days.
- KPFA, KPFK, and WPFW got all their candidates in. WBAI had a couple who didn't qualify (Bounubti Kamenthou and Mike Sargent). The PNB directors confirmed there were many site problems, so many that KPFT will not have an election this year.
- The voting period will be 8-15-23 to 9-30-23. There will be extensions for stations that don't meet quorum (10% of the eligible voters, listeners and staff, voting). To extend these deadlines will increase the cost of the election.
- To minimize cost, candidate forums and carts are voluntary not mandatory.
- By contract, the NES will be paid in 3 payments, the last one due before the final deadline to vote.

The Board discussed the report.

8:09 pm ET Motion (EEF) To extend the discussion to exhaust the stack. Seconded. Passed without objection.

The Board continued to discuss the report

8:18 pm ET The General Manager's Report (Berthold Reimers)

Due to his ill health at the time, his report was truncated. (Spreadsheet he sent before the meeting appended to these minutes) He requested a special meeting of the Board with one item on the agenda only to discuss how to raise money for the station and how fast this could be done.

The Board discussed the report and Berthold's request.

Preliminary Suggestion (Marilyn Vogt-Downey) We need to renew volunteer participation. Jack has prepared a cart, and she is working with him on a way to vet volunteers. Berthold Reimers agreed that phones need to be answered at the station by volunteers in the immediate future.

8:26 pm ET Motion (James Sagurton) To have a 1.5 hr special meeting on 7-26-23 for LSB members, WBAI management and staff, as requested by the GM, and confirmed by the PD, so it wouldn't interfere with the WBAI LSB FC meeting on 7-19-23, and so those who need to make the PNB Governance meeting at 8:30 pm, could still do that. The purpose of the meeting will be discussion of the current situation at WBAI and how to increase audience and revenue in the short term. Seconded.

The Board discussed the motion.

8:30 pm ET Motion (James Sagurton) To extend the discussion for 5 min. Seconded. Passed without objection.

The Board continued to discuss the motion.

8:35 pm ET Motion (Jack De Palma) To extend the discussion for 1 min. Seconded. Passed without objection.

The Board continued to discuss the motion.

R Paul requested reading of the motion. Secretary read the motion which then passed without objection.

8:38 pm ET Programming Update (Linda Perry)

#### Highlights

- Linda sent a report in advance of the meeting documenting current conditions at the station, including poor sanitation, leaky roof, equipment/rug that need replacing, lack of supplies (appended to these minutes)
- She offered to give anyone who wanted to see the current state of the station a tour.
- She stated that Carolyn McIntyre used to bring supplies regularly to the station. Perhaps others could volunteer to do this.

- Rachel Barr sent in a banner purchased online by Bruce Grief of the LOFT and is setting up a mechanism whereby it could be signed out by volunteers wanting to take it to community events for outreach and fundraising purposes. There is no other banner at present.
- John Brinkley suggested a monthly or weekly forum to present different points of view to increase interest. Linda stated that they would need a radio producer for this and no one has volunteered for this.
- Linda stated that BAI needs to increase its social media presence, but our twitter account was hacked and tweets aren't showing up.
- Hazel Pinder suggested that the LSB used to pass the hat amongst themselves at every LSB meeting. Maybe we need to revive that custom.

8:45 pm ET Treasurer's Report (R. Paul Martin)

#### Highlights

- When the Great Plains Accounting Software problems are resolved, the stations will receive audits.
- The ED stated there is no money for new audits.
- We owe \$67-95K accumulated over several years, not counting arrears in central services.
- We are 2 quarters behind on the FJC Loan, 2 months behind on the EIDL loan.
- The NFC met in executive session to discuss contractual matters of a confidential nature.

The Board discussed the report.

Point of Information (Eleanor Elizabeth Forman) Requested to restate her question and have R. Paul answer. Seconded. Passed without objection.

She restated her question which was about timing of the last payment to the NES, that she should be paid after her work is 100% completed.

R. Paul said he thought the issue was that the ED wasn't aware of the previous history of problems with NES's when they were paid before completing tasks. That hadn't happened with this NES who was contracted for the previous election in 2021.

8:56 pm ET The Chair requested a substitute chair for the next agenda item so he could present his resolution.

Katherine O'Sullivan volunteered.

Resolution (MDDW) Possible Action To be Taken, Resolution: Persecution and Assassination of Journalists (e.g. Julian Assange) With Multiple WBAI Journalists Now On Ukranian Government Endorsed Kill List Promoted By US w/ Taxpayer Dollars Including NATO hosting and CIA backing. (15 minutes) - Michael D. D. White.

MDDW read his full resolution. (Full resolution and supporting documents appended to these minutes)

The Chair called for a second and there was none, but she recognized members who wanted to discuss the resolution.

#### Highlights

- Several members wanted more proof of the facts asserted, like screen shots of actual kill lists, not transcripts of YouTube videos.
- One member thought it sounded like a fringe conspiracy theory.
- Another member said it needed to be reworked to be more inclusive. For example, members of the Uhuru Movement, which has been outspoken against sending arms to Ukraine, were arrested and charged with being Russian agents. This is a matter of public record.

Motion (Basir M) To table the motion until it is confirmed and reworked to be more inclusive. Seconded.

Point of information (R. Paul Martin) A motion to table is not debatable.

The Chair stated she hadn't seen a member's raised hand who wanted to talk before Basir's motion. She recognized the member to talk.

Bounubti stated this issue had been covered by World Socialist Website and shared the link in the chat. (<https://www.wsws.org/en/articles/2022/08/25/wwmt-a25.html> )

9:13 pm ET The Chair then asked whether there was any objection to the motion to table. It passed without objections.

Point of Information (Marilyn Vogt-Downey) Who will rework it?

Answered by MDDW but his answer is unintelligible on the tape.

R. Paul Martin called for orders of the day.

Michael resumed function of the chair.

9:15 pm ET Public comment began.

9:45 pm ET Motion (Eleanor Elizabeth Forman) To extend the meeting for 5 minutes to hear the report of the CAB. Seconded. Passed without objection.

9:45 pm ET Report from the Community Advisory Board – Neale Vos

Highlights:

- Cover cop city better
- Should survey members
- Request PSA dealing with statute of limitation for victims of sexual harassment
- Need younger producers
- Too many repeater shows, need new shows
- Need a grievance procedure

9:48 pm ET Resolution (Basir Mchawi): To establish a voluntary community meeting, among LSB, Staff, and listeners, to take place quarterly, in addition to regular monthly LSB meetings, to allow for dialogue. Will have a rotating chair. Seconded.

Basir read his full resolution (appended to these minutes).

The Board discussed the resolution.

9:50 pm ET Motion (Marilyn Vogt-Downey) to extend 2 minutes to exhaust the stack. Seconded. Passed without objection.

The Board continued to discuss the resolution.

9:52 pm ET Call the Question (Basir Mchawi)

Roll call vote was taken, after a brief summary by the secretary. The motion passed with 8 yes, 4 no, and 2 a.

10:04 pm ET Meeting adjourned by acclaim.

Submitted by Kay Williams, Secretary

Appendices coming in separate attachments