

WCUW 91.3FM
910 MAIN STREET, WORCESTER MA 01610
Board of Directors meeting

TUESDAY – September 19, 2023 7:00 PM (Zoom only)

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 7:03

- **Attending:** John Solaperto, Nick Cozzens, Greg Check, Uma Ananth, Tania Romero, David Connell, Rick Hendra
- **Not attending:** Darren, Mitch
- **Also attending:** Troy Tyree, Scott Hayman, “Liz”, and “Mark” [sic]

Approval of minutes from August 13, 2023 – approved without discussion or dissent.

Report from the Chair:

- As Darren was absent due to a family emergency, Nick took the Chair as VP.
- Nick then turned the chair over to Rick, who he said would be handling several of the reports and discussions.

Committee Reports:

- **Infrastructure – Greg**
 - There were several building needs identified on the walk-through the Infrastructure Committee made, and now they need to be addressed.
 - They will be considered within the budgeting process for the bequest monies.
 - They include:
 - The crack in the outside wall which needs repair
 - Carpeting is needed down the hallways
 - The CD Library is still in some disarray
 - There’s electrical work to be done
 - And we may need new Barrix boxes to address some of our recurring broadcast problems. We need something.
- **Human Resources**
 - **Report on Board Elections**
 - Rick reported that the HR Committee has been preparing for the election of new Board members at the Annual Membership meeting, and getting the word out.
 - Troy has posted the announcement in the Lobe and enclosed it with the Fall fund-raising letters.

- Greg has posted the form on the WCUW website, where it can be downloaded.
- We currently have 9 members, having lost Bill Fisher recently, and we will lose Tania in October, as her 6 year term limit is up, leaving us with 8 – so we can elect 3 more members on the Board
- 7 is our minimum number, required by the By-Laws.
- Guest Scott Hayman asked to be recognized and inquired about the minimum requirements for the Board
 - It was confirmed that one needed to be a member for a year, attend 2 Board meetings prior to the Annual Meeting, read the minutes, etc.
 - It was noted that the 2-meeting requirement has generally been waived and so it was not listed as a requirement on the Nomination Form.
 - Scott urged that we stick to the letter of the By-Laws.
 - Nick noted that we can still appoint someone if no one meets the requirements.
 - There was no argument to the contrary, so we will not waive the 2 regular meeting requirement as we have in the past.
 - Rick agreed to make all the requirements clear on the Nomination Form.
- **Recommendation on TDI position hire**
 - Both the Exec Committee and the HR Committee have reviewed the proposal by Mitch for the story teller position in the TDI grant and his request that he be considered for that position.
 - It should be noted that Mitch made clear his interest in the position from the start, and proposed to perform those duties along with his current role as (unpaid) writer/manager of the grant itself
 - If Mitch took on this position, he would also have to resign from the Board per the By-Laws.
 - The Exec. Committee and Human Resources Committee both recommend approval of this proposal and of Mitch for the position.
 - Guest Scott Hayman then took the floor to ask why the position wasn't advertised
 - It was explained that Mitch is already managing the grant, having written it and worked with the funders for several months already on the understanding that he would be proposing this.
 - Scott said that isn't how things are usually handled with grants. Rick and Uma assured him otherwise. Grants frequently provide funding for those who write them.
 - Scott then raised concerns about the financial implications of this hire, but the funds for this position (and another for a project coordinator at \$10,000 plus \$8,000 for Troy) are already allocated by the grant.

- Greg made the motion to offer Mitch the storyteller role laid out in the TDI grant. This was seconded by Rick and a couple others and passed on a 6 – 1 vote, John objecting.
- **Bank Grant Task Force**
 - Rick reported that one grant to the Greater Worcester Community Foundation had been funded, one had not:
 - We will receive \$6000+ funding for the Radio Research Consortium, working with the Nielsen rating people, to identify in detail our listening audience over the course of this fall and spring
 - GWCF is down-staffed and behind in their awards or we would have started this already.
 - Rick had also applied for our once-usual \$10,000 operating funds grant from the GWCF but we were declined. Jonathan said the other is the priority.
 - Rick, David, and John are also looking to identify a bank each to approach for funding. These funds will apply towards the matching gift.
- **Recognition Task Force**
 - Rick reported that the Task Force made good progress on the outlines of what we're trying to accomplish:
 - We've talked about levels of awards, types of awards, and so on
 - We've agreed on combining the Recognition Event with the 50th Anniversary Celebration over two days, to include an open house, a concert, and perhaps a record sale.
 - We've talked about the different options for food, our preference leaning toward a base dish (pizza?) complemented by foods prepared in the style of some of the different ethnic communities that help make up WCUW.
 - But all this depends on the availability of the FrontRoom at a date we can do. Rick asked Troy if Friday and Saturday, Dec. 1 and 2, might be available. Troy said Sunday was taken, but those 2 days should be okay

Old Business:

- Troy acknowledged that the manual of standard operating procedures – including things like how to get “Talking Birds” on air if he incapacitated – was needed, and he's working on it.
- The keys are now duplicated and available on a discrete hook.
- Rick was looking to examine FrontRoom financial reports, but the information provided to him and the meeting was in need of correction, Greg said. We'll revisit this topic again next time.

New Business

- Rick asked, since we haven't been able to speak with our matching gift benefactor, whether it's certain that bank grants will count towards the total? Troy said yes.

- Asked about identifying new members' dues towards the matching gift, Troy said those were being tallied separately.
- Asked about progress with the new lease for Fantastic Pizza, Troy said an appointment was scheduled with Saket and Darren.

Executive Director's Report: please see ED's report of 9/17/23.

Executive Session:

- Rick then moved that the Board go into executive session to discuss matters of management concern coming out only to adjourn. Nick seconded, and the Board agreed without dissent.
- Discussion ensued to keep the Board abreast of recent developments and proposals. No motions were made or actions taken.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:15.