

WCUW 91.3FM

910 MAIN STREET, WORCESTER MA 01610

WCUW Board of Directors Meeting Tuesday, December 19, 2023, at 7:00 pm via ZOOM

MINUTES

Darren Pinto, Board President, called the Meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Attending: Executive Director, Troy Tyree, Ex-Officio, Uma Ananth, Ed Arndt, Mark Babson, Greg Check, Gail Hunt, David Connell, Rick Hendra, Scott Hayman, John Solaperto

Guests: Walter Henritze, Robin Scott

Not Attending: Nick Cozzens

Approval of Minutes from November 21, 2023: The Board unanimously approved the minutes after a brief question posed by John Solaperto and answered by Scott Hayman. John Solaperto moved to accept the minutes. Rick Hendra seconded the motion. All voted in favor of accepting the minutes as submitted.

Reports:

Infrastructure: Greg check reported on the infrastructure committee.

Carpet tiles laid in the hallway, record store and gallery. Molding is in. The walls have been painted. The hallway looks nice now. Several projects in the queue, one of which will be in new business. No fire department inspection yet. We are a go for starting to use the online version of QuickBooks after we pay the license fee. We can work with Intuit and the accountant to move the records over from the desktop version to the online version. We will not do that until the 2023 books are closed. Late January or early February we can start using the online version of QuickBooks. Then we can get training in new donor management software. Greg then reported that there was a small leak in the roof and that we need to seek out a roofer to look at it. Troy Tyree then shared that the leak is in the back corner by the rear back door and that he has photos. He will share images with the infrastructure committee. Needs some repair for sure. Troy said we have had roof repair in the front of the building, but we have never really had to address anything on the backside such as this. Troy is seeking out a contractor to look at the issue. Troy has someone in mind who has done work for us in the past. He will contact them. John Solaperto wanted assurance that Troy would follow up with a roofer to investigate the problem.

On a separate note, John Solaperto asked Troy about the Pizza place. Aren't they on the same alarm system as the station? Troy said they are on the same system to the best of his knowledge. Troy said he can talk more about the sprinkler system during his report. John was fine with this.

Darren asked Troy a question about two fire extinguishers on the floor. Troy said that he is aware of this and that he needed to go Home Depot for the parts to remount the extinguishers. The walls had just been painted.

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Community Development and Fundraising: Darren said, given our transition, he does not have a lot to report. He reported that there are four separate categories that people could get involved in and that people should let him know if they want to join. Mark Babson shared the four categories, which are: social media, community outreach, grants and membership. Scott asked people to look at the chart that was shared with them and to let him know where their interest lies. Uma asked if there was a committee about donor management. Both the Infrastructure and Community Development committees would include some aspect of Donor management. Rick asked whether the board wanted to continue pursuing a grant for a zoom room? People agreed to put the zoom room grant on hold for now. John and Gail inputted on this topic.

Human Resources: Rick Hendra said there is nothing really to report at this juncture, but that we should get to work on an annual evaluation. There was discussion as to who is on the committee. Rick H is no longer on the committee. Darren serves as Ex-Officio. Ed Arndt, a new board member, would like to serve on the committee, given his background in health and safety. David Connell is on the committee and said there is some unfinished business with the Executive Director that he would like a response to. David asked Troy to follow up on an email that had been sent to him in October, to put closure on a certain topic. Troy agreed to do so.

Proposal from Executive Committee to establish a Budget and Finance Committee:

Mark moved to establish a budget and finance committee to oversee the budget and finances of the station on a regular basis. John S. seconded the motion. Rick H. asked if this would be a free-standing committee or a subcommittee of Community Development? Scott and Mark confirmed that it would be stand alone. Mark said the committee would make a budget each year and then oversee how the incoming funds match up with outgoing funds. When questions of spending for, for example, a Zoom Room, the budget committee would communicate whether we have the funds to move ahead with such and expense. John S. asked whether donor base development would fall under this committee and Mark said no. This is more of an accounting committee. Simply X's and O's. David asked if this committee is different than the existing finance committee or if there is not an existing finance committee. Scott responded that there is not currently a finance committee. David asked then if the Treasurer would be on this committee. Scott said yes, the Treasurer would certainly need to be on the committee.

All were in favor of the motion to establish a Budget and Finance Committee.

Executive Director's Report

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The report was circulated to board members prior to the meeting and shared on screen. Troy pointed out that the glass blocks were a great fundraising opportunity. He would like to re-kindle this. He's working with Larry to make it easier to use the glass blocks. He said he would share the numbers after the meeting about the potential of the glass blocks. Troy then reported that the records are all ready for sale.

Troy reported that we have approval from the Fire Department to resume all our regular business as a radio station, except for live, electric entertainment shows. Troy is still pursuing the building inspector for the city's guidance and requirements to assemble for concerts and movies.

We are still waiting for the engineered drawings so we can solicit quotes for a fire alarm system.

Troy then gave updates on Fundraising (see his report).

He shared that the Blues Extravaganza was a huge turn-out, due to Ronnie Earle's participation in the event. He pointed out that the FrontRoom would not have been able to accommodate the number of attendees that the Blues Extravaganza had at the Eagle venue. If the FrontRoom hosted the same Extravaganza lineup he imagined it would have to have two shows.

Troy shared photos of the record store. He wants to have a record sale this weekend before Christmas. 5,000 records ready for sale.

Darren pointed out that record sales are an unexpected gem! Gail and others asked for fliers, and an event on Facebook for sharing. People were generally very happy about the record sales!

Troy reported on Clark Partnership. He is talking about having a Clark radio show. Clark requires that internships must be paid for. He referred to a current student interested in interning. A meeting took place with Jack Foley's replacement. His name is Joseph Corazzini. Troy mentioned continuing with Assumption for an 11th year with hopes of working out something with Quinsigamond Community College by working with John S... John reported being in touch with the Quinsigamond folks and hopes to be able to report more progress after the holidays. Greg asked Troy if Assumption will continue with underwriting. Troy said yes. He also pointed out that he is giving them an hour each week on the air. Rick Hendra asked what the students are submitting, and Troy explained that each student is charged with creating an ½ hour of public affairs programming. Troy said he would like to have more involvement with the students, but it is tricky.

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Gail asked about the on-air fundraising update. Troy shared that all is fairly good this year as compared with last year. He speculated that the sprinkler system issue may have influenced overall giving for the quarter as On-air fundraising is very different and less fruitful as the years have passed.

Gail stated that she thinks the Gallery has great potential to become part of Worcester's gallery scene. She noted that the Harold Stevens gift has captured the interest of renowned photographer, Steven DiRado, because Harold was a regular photographic subject and friend of Steven's. Gail mentioned that she is talking with Anne Souza, former Art's Worcester employee to see if the WCUW gallery could become part of the Worcester gallery scene, including for many of DiRado's Clark photography students.

Darren asked if we could have a small group of players in the On-Air Studio without triggering the Fire Alarm/licensing issue. Troy answered that we certainly could. Gail thinks the Grateful Dead, younger folk are a great potential youth audience for WCUW once we get the FrontRoom going again.

New Business

We are now subject to a required Financial Review because our income for one year is over \$200,000. Scott moved to approve the contract for \$2,250 with the accountant to conduct a financial review of the agency. John S. seconded the motion. All approved of the motion.

Scott moved that we approve up to \$600 to address the gap in the back of the building that Troy has pointed out. Greg seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Uma questioned when we might be ready to schedule the recognition event. Troy said it could be as soon as mid-January. Mark proposed giving at least 4 weeks. He thought we should look to the end of January or February. Uma wanted to clarify who should be recognized/honored with a trophy. Discussion ensued. Darren wondered whether we should host off-site so we can have live music and alcohol. Troy mentioned a nice room in Auburn. Lots more conversation ensued.

Troy, Uma, and Gail will finalize all the details of the event and share the details via email.

Finally, John S. asked for one or more "bumps" to play on-air that appealed for funds for the sprinkler system and fire alarm system costs.

Gail asked that because the 80K triggered the new financial review requirement, shouldn't the 80k cover these costs? Several members of the board noted that she had a good point.

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Gail and Uma asked about the status of the TDI Contract. Darren said he is still waiting for the job description. Rick. said that if he does not get a job description by the next board meeting then we need to move on. David C. offered help to talk to TDI to modify things if necessary. All shared their concern. Darren will keep up posted.

The meeting was adjourned by Darren at 8:52 pm.