

**WORT Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
January 20, 2016**

Board members in attendance:

Gilman Halsted – Member
Stuart Levitan – Vice President
Jan Levine Thal - Member
Jody McCann – Treasurer
Paul Novak – Member
Steve Ringwood – President
Haywood Simmons - Member
Santee Seiberlich - Secretary
Tim Schneider - Staff Rep

Board Administrative Assistant: Emma Cassidy

Absent: Aaron Perry- Member

Guests: Norm Stockwell, Dylan Brogan, Peggy Scott, Thistle Patterson, Bruce Mayer, Steve McCarthy, Jerry Chernow, Brian Dahlk, Terry O’Laughlin, Susan Sheldon, Molly Stentz, Sybil Augustine

Start Time: 7:05pm
Call to Order by Steve

1) Announcements/Communications from the Public

Thistle Patterson read a statement to the Board of Directors addressing recent issues Access Hour programs. Thistle said that she supports the WORT mission statement and also believes that she is stating an underrepresented viewpoint of radical feminists. She thanked the board for their time and thanked the board for continuing to uphold minority viewpoints. Thistle’s full statement is available to read in the January board packet.

Steve also read a statement which was emailed to the board by Vajra Ma which stated that “a male who identifies as a woman should not be given unqualified access to all women's spaces.”

Steve also announced that there was an email from Mitch Rosefelt sent to the board which they should read if they have not done so already.

2) Presentation of the Audit

Norm introduced the auditors Bruce Mayer and Brian Dahlk and explained that the station is required to have an annual audit done by an outside firm.

Brian discussed the financial statements which were distributed to the board and are in the January Board Packet. The opinion of the auditors is that the finances are stated materially correctly. Brian also said that the audit went smoothly and staff cooperated and were transparent.

The audit firm also provided a document outlining some suggestions for the organization. The issues outlined in this document were:

- Providing oversight of the financial reporting process
- Increasing controls over the cash receipts system
- Increasing controls over the cash disbursement system
- Formal approval of expense reimbursements
- Provide supporting documentation to check signers
- Planning for profitability

Molly asked if there is a concern at all about having volunteers collect credit card information during a pledge drive. Bruce said that, for example, Wisconsin Public Radio has done away with having volunteers receive credit card info.

Steve asked how to account for AutoGive donations. Bruce explained that the rule is that you only record the pledge dollars as they come in since an individual could cancel AutoGive at any time.

Jerry said that members expressed interest in having the balance sheets updated each month and wonders if that will be recommended. Bruce explained that many organizations update statements quarterly. Information costs money, so additional cost will be incurred by doing monthly reports.

MOTION: Jody moved to accept the auditors report for fiscal year 2015
By: Jody
Second:
Motion: Passes 9-0-0

3) Additional Agenda Items

Steve announced that Tim has taken on the role of staff representative, replacing Norm.

4) Vote on Approval of Previous Minutes

MOTION: To accept the minutes
By: Stu

Second: Jody
Motion: Passes 9-0-0

5) Vote to approve Staff and Committee Reports

MOTION: To accept the staff reports
By: Paul
Second: Gil
Motion: Passes 9-0-0

Steve asked that committee reports be submitted by the Friday before the next staff meeting. Gil couldn't attend the Events committee and he has the minutes, which he will send to the board.

Paul asked to have Worthy 40 added back to the list of committees for continuous archive purpose. An Archives Committee was suggested as a replacement, since Worthy 40 was an ad hoc committee.

MOTION: Moved to establish an Archives Committee
By: Stu
Second: Sandee
Motion: Passes 9-0-0

Action item: Steve will ask Tom Christie to create an email list for the new Archives Committee.

MOTION: To accept the committee reports
By: Sandee
Second: Haywood
Motion: Passes 9-0-0

6) New Business

a. Finance Committee Proposal

The board discussed the Finance Committee proposal and the statement from the Staff Collective withdrawing the proposal. Jody explained that the staff withdrawal of the proposal came without the Finance Committee having time to talk and submit a revised proposal. Jerry commented that 2 of the 3 points in the Finance proposal came from a recommendation from the staff, so he is not comfortable making these suggestions now.

MOTION: Direct staff to meet collectively to recommend cuts to achieve a balanced budget by the next finance committee meeting
By: Stu
Second: Jan
Motion: Passes 6-1-2

MOTION: Authorize the finance committee to work with staff to devise the procedures to address the three material weaknesses identified in the management letter from the auditors

By: Stu

Second: Jan

Motion: Passes 9-0-0

b. Elections Committee

MOTION: To add Cathy to the list of eligible voters in the organization

By: Jody

Second: Jan

Motion: Passes 9-0-0

c. Committees review and updates of membership

Steve asked that everyone review the committees that they are on and please inform Emma if you wish to change committee assignments.

d. Board and Staff Retreat Scheduling

Haywood said that we need to decide on a new date for the Board and Staff Retreat. The committee will resend a doodle poll. The new doodle poll should be set up by next Friday.

e. Fundraising

Susan explained that the Fundraising Committee asked that the board send any additional info related to the top donors list, and also any business suggestions for underwriting. Susan also mentioned that she would like to be able to tell outside donors that she gets monthly donations from each of the board members and asked that the board consider signing up for AutoGive.

f. Need to reopen union contract for health care change

Norm said that the current union contract says that it is now illegal for staff to get reimbursement for health care if they are signed up under their partner's health insurance. Will need to speak with the union representative about this issue and make a new suggestion. Susan said that there is a timeline and we would need to have a board decision on this issue before the next board meeting.

g. Development Initiative

Stu wants to know if he could talk to people in the development community about what we could do with this piece of land in the future. The sense of the board is that Stu can discuss this idea from a hypothetical point of view since there are no plans to do anything with the land at this time.

h. Station Clean up

MOTION: To direct the Facilities Committee to work with staff to come up a implementable plan and workable timetable and report back at the next board meeting on plans for a station cleanup

By: Stu

Second: Paul

Motion: Passes 9-0-0

i. Tasking Bylaws Committee with drafting a policy on the release of WORT documents

MOTION: To direct the Bylaws Committee to decide on a policy for the release of WORT documents

By: Sandee

Second: Paul

Motion: Passes 9-0-0

j. Access Hour application language provided by Ken & Norm

MOTION: To accept the changes to the access hour as seen in the draft presented to the board

By: Stu

Second: Jody

Motion: Passes 6-1-2

k. Proposals from CAB

The board had a discussion on whether or not volunteers working on the Access Hour should be required to sign an agreement saying they will abide by the mission statement of WORT.

MOTION: To accept the changes to the access hour as seen in the draft presented to the board

By: Stu

Second: Jody

Motion: Passes 6-1-2

MOTION: To table the proposed action from CAB

By: Stu

Second: Jody

Motion: Passes 9-0-0

MOTION: To accept the new CAB members

By: Sandee

Second: Paul
Motion: Passes 9-0-0

7) Closed Session

MOTION: To reaffirm the right of the Programming collectives to self-select their membership, and to a safe and supportive environment
By: Stu
Second: Jan
Motion: Passes 9-0-0

8) Additional Items

MOTION: To adjourn
By: Jody
Second: Paul
Motion: Passes 9-0-0

Meeting adjourns: 10:48pm