

Minutes

WYPR Board of Directors

May 16, 2018 at 5:30

Attending:

Darcy Carroll
Cindy Amitin
Emile Bendit
Cynthia Berman
Frank Boston
Deborah Callard
Cheo Hurley
Tyson King-Meadows
Gary Levine
Liz Atwood

Not Attending:

Susan Baisley
Andy Brooks
Bailey Morris-Eck
John Prugh
Meadow Lark Washington

On phone:

Laura Speer

Staff Present:
Tony Brandon
Catherine Tucker
Andy Bienstock
Carla Truax
Tom Hall
Heidi Sheppard

1. Call to Order – Darcy Carroll

Darcy called the meeting to order and the minutes from March 7 were unanimously approved. Darcy thanked the staff, especially Tony for leading the ship and Catherine for jumping in quickly in January. She thanked the three new board members for their positive contributions this year. She thanked Liz for leading the Board Assessment Survey which greatly enhanced the cohesiveness of the group.

2. Introduction of Guest Speaker, Edith Chapin, NPR News

Darcy gave a brief introduction of the special guest speaker, Edith Chapin, Executive Editor of NPR News. Tony then gave a more detailed bio of Edith Chapin who was previously the senior supervising editor of the NPR News Foreign Desk and prior to that spent 25 years at CNN. Chapin spoke about the role of journalists and journalism in the Trump era and how NPR is handling the current political/news climate. She described it as an exhausting and fascinating time. NPR has had to make adjustments to its staff because of the uptick in interest by listeners. The election cycle is constant now. There is now a heightened interest in factual and straightforward news reporting. There have been additional hires made: currently there are 4 White House reporters; 3 Capitol Hill reporters; and 2 Justice reporters (due to the Mueller investigation). 900 stories come out of the Washington Desk now, which is three times more than in 2013. There have also been new bureaus opening in S. Korea, Jerusalem, and Gaza, Pakistan and there are 2 correspondents in China. Steve Inskeep has reported from Jerusalem and Gaza; Mary Louise Kelly has reported from Russia. Chapin stressed the importance of reporting by focusing on facts and staying away from hyperbole.

Chapin took questions from board members and staff:

Tom Hall – How do you balance opinion in presenting the news?

Edith Chapin: News is not meant to be presented with opinion. News should be presented factually and accurately without opinion, hearing all sides of the story.

Liz Atwood – How do you prioritize the stories you air and not focus heavily on politics?

Edith Chapin: NPR focuses on stories in categories of News & Science, Arts & Culture, Business, and Sports. “All Things Considered” is not just politics. The mission is to consider all things. The goal is to present the news balanced with other topics.

Darcy Carroll – What is the collaborative process with other stations?

Edith Chapin: NPR relies on member stations to reflect their own communities’ stories. Member stations have the best read on local stories. There is collaboration with critical contributions from multiple stations on national news.

Tony thanked Chapin for her time and the Skype call was ended.

3. Committee Reports

- Governance Committee – Ann Quinn, Cynthia Berman – Co-chairs
Three open seats would need to be filled following the retirement of Liz Atwood and Deborah Callard. Three prospective candidates were identified. There were initial discussions with the three candidates followed by lunches with them, including board members and Tony. Ann and Cynthia presented bios of Tom Ainsley, Jeff Hettleman and Anne Schelle to the board. There was a call to vote on the three proposed candidates. Motion was made to approve the slate as written. Motion was approved unanimously.
- Finance Report – Tony (for John Prugh)
Façade cost is estimated at \$200K. A ramp will need to be installed to become ADA compliant. In addition, the audio chain will need upgrading at an estimated cost of \$200K. Development and Finance have discussed funding the projects through both grants and cash on hand. Liza has secured funding in the amount of \$50,000 grant over a two year period. We have already received \$25,000 toward the fulfillment of this grant. Will approach major givers and grantors for help with funding, but in the meantime, the station can fund the gap with cash on hand.

A motion was made to have station make funds available in the amount of 400K to repair the façade and upgrade the audio chain and bring WYPR to current technical specifications. Motion was unanimously approved by the board.

- Development Committee – Matt Martin – Co-chair
 Planning on the leadership board is underway. The estimated launch date is September/October 2018. The donor board would include donors in the amount of \$10K – one million.
 Matt emphasized the importance of board giving and he encouraged all board members to get their contributions in to the station.
- Outreach Committee – Gary Levine – Co-chair
 There were several Outreach visits since January - Pro Bono Counseling Project, Sojourner Place (Episcopal Housing Project), Enterprise Homes, and Valley Planning Council. All were good prospects for future on air programming.
 Ascertainment sessions have been enlightening and fun.

4. Retirement of board members – Deborah Callard and Liz Atwood
 Tony read “A Minute of Gratitude” for Deborah Callard and Elizabeth Atwood (attached)
 Tony expressed his appreciation for their many years of service to the Board of Directors. Each was presented with a plaque and a folder with a “minute of gratitude”.

Darcy thanked everyone who was in attendance.

5. Meeting was adjourned
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Executive Session:

A portion of the meeting was closed to the public in order to permit discussion of matters relating to individual employees, proprietary information, confidential advice of counsel, or commercial or financial information obtained on a confidential basis.

Certified by _____ Peter Toran, Board Secretary

Date _____