

WCUW 91.3FM

910 MAIN STREET, WORCESTER MA 01610

Minutes of the November 12, 7:00 pm Board of Directors Meeting Minutes Via Zoom

MINUTES

Attending: Mike Warren, Lee Griffen, Robert (Robin) Scott, Ann Souza, Uma Ananth, John Solaperto, Scott Hayman, Gail Hunt, Ed Arndt, Mark Babson, Greg Check, Executive Director, Troy Tyree, Ex Officio

Guests: Dan Hunt

The Meeting was called to order by Mark Babson at 7:00 pm. Mark welcomed our new Board Members to the Board.

Approval of the October Annual Meeting Minutes: The Board reviewed the minutes. John Solaperto moved to accept the minutes without corrections. Gail Hunt seconded the motion. All voted in favor of accepting the minutes.

Election of officers:

Scott summarized who the current officer positions and who is filling them. Scott said all the officers would like to continue serving. Scott pointed out that Greg Check, if reelected to continue as a will serve more than three consecutive years in this position. The Bylaws prohibit this, but there is a provision that allows for an Assistant Treasurer, which Greg could fill. He could continue doing his excellent work. Ed Arndt has agreed that he will serve as Treasurer, if elected, and will work with Greg. Mark asked if anyone else is interested in serving in the Treasurer position. No others expressed interest. Ed said that he appreciated the Board's trust and confidence. Greg agreed with the new arrangement. John moved to accept the new arrangement with Greg and Ed. Gail seconded the motion. All were in favor of the new arrangement. Mark asked if anyone wanted to serve in any of the Board officer positions. The current positions are filled as follows and all those serving have agreed they want to continue serving: Mark Babson as President, John Solaperto as Vice President, and Scott Hayman as Clerk. John Solaperto moved to accept the current slate to continue, Greg seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

Account Balances:

Greg reported that the Restricted funds savings account balance as of 10/31/24 is \$62,452.05. Each fund category was discussed, including their respective balances. The Greater Worcester Community Fund grant balance was discussed briefly. These funds are intended to gather "Nielson Report" type data to determine who our listeners are. Mark asked for any big picture status on this work. Troy said he would send the reports around to the board members, but he went on to say that we are barely a "blip" in the radio market. Greg pointed out that the balances shared do not include the award of \$95,000 in American

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Recovery Act Funds that we will get sometime soon. John Solaperto asked whether there is a tracking system for major donors and memberships. Troy said it is a work in progress once we get the Exceed membership database software. Ed and Troy are working on this.

Front Room – Programming Committee

John Solaperto would like to chair a new committee that will plan, coordinate, and implement the Front Room Programming. Mike Warren, Gail Hunt, and Ed Arndt would like to be on the committee. Jonathon Babcock would also like to serve on the committee. John expects that the Front Room activities should net at least \$5,000 for the station's general fund. Mark underscored that he thinks we need fiscal goals for each part of the Front Room- Gallery, Record Sales, movies, and performances. He believes we need goals and policies such that these activities make more funds than we expend. Scott pointed out that there is a Front Room Committee meeting tomorrow at 5:15 pm. This would be the first meeting of the Committee. Gail pointed out that the meeting tomorrow includes Andy, who will be running the Movies. Mark asked who the point person will be for the Front Room. At current, John and Gail are the liaisons to the board. Troy offered that he already has some documentation available for Front Room policies and procedures. He will share this documentation with the committee.

Current Committees and updates:

Scott explained that the active committees from last year were: Infrastructure, led by Greg. This committee meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 pm. The Grants Committee is comprised of Ann, Scott, John, and Troy. Gail and John lead the Gallery Committee. Scott and Ann are on this committee. The curator of the Gallery is Stephen DiRado. Maia and Bailey are student assistant curators. The next show is on December 7th. It is only a "pop-up" show. It will be an immersive show. Annabelle Edwards Stoll is the artist. The show is called the Living Womb. Jill Watts will be the next Artist show starting sometime in mid-December. Mark stressed that there is a need for effective communication and coordination between the Front Room, Gallery and Record Shop. Gail volunteered to provide the intercommunication work and calendar. Scott stressed that anyone should feel free to join any of the committees that have been described. Scott described the Finance Committee work and what continues to need to be done, including getting up to speed on Quickbooks, creating and then monitoring the annual budget. The Finance committee now includes Mark, Scott, Greg, and Troy. Ed Arndt plans to join the committee. Scott described that our challenge remains balancing our operations budget. We chronically fall short on the revenue side. John and Mark agreed that we need to solidify a plan that strives to raise enough for operations. John asked if we have a Black Friday plan

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for Record Sales. Troy responded that we did, and he will share more plans. Ann asked about catching up with Quickbooks. Scott explained that we are in the process of converting to the online version of Quickbooks and pointed out that our chart of accounts is less than desirable and finally that Troy has been, historically, the only staff person to enter all our expenses and income into the database. Currently Aaron, our accountant, is helping to get us up to speed. Meanwhile, the organization operates at a deficit. These are the challenges of the Finance Committee.

Update on Recognition Event

Uma shared that the committee included Nicholas, Gail, Troy, and her. Nicholas has stepped down. Lee Griffen has joined the committee since joining the board. The committee is an ad hoc committee put together exclusively to plan a 50th anniversary appreciation/recognition event. The tentative date is January 4th with a start time of 4:00 or 5:30 or 6:00. The venue is the Front Room. Barry Sullivan has prepared a “gorgeous” invitation. The activities will be “meet and greet,” food, music, a photo booth, and awards to programmers who have volunteered for 20+ years. Uma and Gail felt the total cost of the event would be approximately \$2,000. Scott felt that we should have sponsors for the event as well as media coverage. After some discussion, at Mark’s suggestion, it was decided that we would hold off on ordering the food until we received RSVP’s. Troy will have the invites done at the printer, when we have determined the date and that the band is available.

Executive Director Report

Troy wanted to thank all the Volunteers and Board of Directors for making 2024 one of his best years ever. Troy then shared the movie schedule upcoming. A discussion ensued about how tickets are ordered and whether the ticket proceeds come to WCUW or Cinema-Worcester. Discussion also happened regarding coordination with Front Room Music for the use of the room. Troy shared that the first show that was scheduled for Front Room, featuring April Mae and the June Bugs, was postponed until April because the band has COVID. Troy shared that December 1st is the first cutoff for Bill L. to etch more glass blocks. Gail suggested that Troy should let her and Dan know when he needs help with the blocks. The current blocks are worth about twenty-four names multiplied by 91.3. This represents about ten months of sales. The Fall Fund Drive has raised about \$7,200 since September. The Goal is \$25,000 until the Winter Drive starts. Troy mentioned that the Drive time programmers are doing an excellent job. He said we have a bunch of good spots to run for the Drive.

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New Business:

Mark raised the issue with new transmitter equipment needed. The estimate is that the new equipment would cost \$25,000. Troy asked for a proposal from the Engineer to address all the equipment needs. Scott said we need to apply for a capital grant unless there is an emergency. Troy said the engineer warned that costs for the equipment is subject to increases. Mark wanted to clarify that, at our core, we are a radio station and that we need to stay on top of any basic equipment needs to keep us on the air. Mark asked that the Grant committee should convene and look for grants for this need. Scott will attend the infrastructure committee along with Ann to begin the process of seeking a grant for the transmitter equipment. A meeting was set for next Tuesday at 7:00 pm for the infrastructure group.

Mark Babson adjourned the meeting.