

Board Present:

Ursula Barrera-Richards Barb Petee*
Tasha Hussain Black Ann Sanford
Ty Boyd Cathy Schrein
Elizabeth Brown-Ellis Olivia Summons
Katie Cappellini Patricia Wast
Carol Contrada Bob Vasquez
Matt Heyrman
Lisa Kahle-Piasecki*
Shawanna LaVoy
Theresa Morris
Monika Ortiz
Charlene Patten*

Staff Present:

Tina Bossenbroek
Matt Brown
Sue Kaake
Marlon Kiser
Raye Ann Langlois
Lindsay Miller
Ray Miller
Dan Niedzwiecki
Matt Reny
Michelle Turner
Chris Peiffer

COA Present:

Marna Ramnath
Dr. S. Amjad Hussain

NETA Members Present:

George E. Walter, CMA, CPA*
Amy Larkin, CPA

*Did Not Attend

A meeting of the Public Broadcasting Foundation of Northwest Ohio was held on Thursday, September 14, 2023, at noon at WGTE Public Media, 1270 S. Detroit Avenue, Toledo, Ohio.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Theresa Morris.

Minutes

Chairperson Theresa Morris called for the approval of minutes from the June 15, 2023, board meeting. Shawanna LaVoy moved to approve; it was seconded by Ann Sanford. The motion was approved unanimously.

FY 2023 – Unaudited Financial Report

Treasurer Patricia Wast stated the Foundation ended the fiscal year with an unadjusted favorable operating margin of \$137,269. She noted the favorable operating margin is a major improvement over the balanced fiscal year 2023 budget approved by the board.

She pointed out that the operating results are preliminary and are subject to year-end and audit adjustments that are currently in process. Once the operating results are finalized with the audit, they will be shared during the November board meeting.

Bob Vasquez made the motion to accept, which was seconded by Ty Boyd. The motion passed unanimously.

FY 2024– Year-to-Date

Treasurer Wast pointed out that the board approved a resolution at its June 15 meeting that authorized management to transfer any excess operating revenues for the period to the Capital Fund. She said that given the time it took to close out the fiscal year, the transfer did not take place by the July 31st deadline stipulated in the resolution. She noted the board will be presented with a new resolution at the November meeting to make the transfer possible.

Treasurer Wast stated management was unable to provide a report for activities through August because information was still unavailable to complete the report. As of July 31st, the first month of the fiscal year, the Foundation had actual revenues of \$159,000 with actual expenses of \$500,000 for an unadjusted operating margin of \$342,000. That is unfavorable to budget by \$36,000. She mentioned the unfavorable operating margin is typical for this point in the fiscal year.

Ann Sanford made the motion to accept, which was seconded by Bob Vasquez. The motion passed unanimously.

Audit Committee Report

Chairperson Bob Vasquez noted that the audit committee met with auditors from Rehmann to review the audit process for FY 2023. He mentioned the final audit report would be presented to the board for action at its next meeting on Thursday, November 9.

Nominating Report

Chairperson Theresa Morris referred members to the list of committee members and chairpersons. She expressed appreciation for everyone's willingness to serve on a committee.

After not receiving any nominations from the floor, the directors agreed to vote on committee appointments as one slate.

Bob Vasquez made the motion to accept, which was seconded by Ty Boyd. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Morris informed the board that Gary Boehm called Marlon last week and resigned his board appointment effective immediately. She noted his wife and he are relocating permanently to North Carolina.

Chairperson Morris asked for a motion to accept Gary's resignation with regret. Carol Contrada made the motion to accept, which was seconded by Bob Vasquez. The motion passed unanimously.

Council of Advisors Report

Chairperson Hussain informed the board that the council of advisors met with management for the annual end-of-summer program review.

He shared that Brad Cresswell, radio station manager, updated the council of advisors on radio programming.

He said "Voices Around Us™" - our podcast series, is off to a good start with six producers creating podcasts. He pointed out there have been over 630 combined plays, shares, and downloads within the first ten days of the launch.

He then shared a rundown of currently scheduled live FM 91 on the Road events, which will include visits to the International Festival at the Islamic Center of Toledo, the University of Michigan's School of Music, Theatre and Dance, and Cinderella Day at the Toledo Lucas County Public Library in partnership with the Toledo Opera. Brad said we are also excited to partner with Toledo Opera to create a podcast.

Chairperson Hussain announced that plans for FM 91 in Performance, a new effort to engage area radio listeners, were underway. He pointed out that staff in the coming months will meet our listeners and provide brief performances with Mary Claire Murphy in piano performance with Brad singing a couple of numbers with her, and Qarie Marshall will give a dramatic reading.

He also shared that "Jazz Spectrum with Fritz Byers" has increased its broadcast schedule to include Saturday and Sunday early mornings.

He noted that "Raising Up Ohio's Women" is in its second month of airing.

He then informed everyone that we have created a space for a multimedia studio that the producers of our "Voices Around Us™" podcasts will use.

Chairperson Hussain then informed the board that Ray Miller, director of content and creative services, shared various projects the TV department is working on.

He said "Business Life 360 with Kristi K" has two episodes left to record this season. He noted they are looking to regroup for season 6 and that The College of Business at the University of Toledo has agreed to underwrite part of the program.

He noted that "To the Point with Donnie Miller" has aired 20 episodes, and "Listening with Keith Burris" will premiere on September 28 with a pilot episode. He noted we are awaiting confirmation of an underwriter for Keith's show.

He pointed out that "Freedom Means Never Surrender," which was produced in collaboration with Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur, premiered on WGTE HD on September 8.

He let everyone know that the Toledo Stories production has started for a 30-minute program about the Old West End. And he noted we have an agreement in principle with The Andersons to create a new 30-minute story about the company.

Chairperson Morris asked for a motion to accept the report. Patricia Wast made the motion to accept, which was seconded by Shawanna LaVoy. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson's Report

Chairperson Theresa Morris thanked everyone for their confidence in her chairing the board. She also referred everyone to the upcoming meeting dates.

Diversity Report

Michelle Turner discussed the diversity report. She briefly outlined the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC) EEO employment requirements for broadcasters. Additionally, she pointed out the Corporation for Public Broadcasting's expectations for diversity.

Ms. Turner mentioned that staff once again completed inclusion training the Corporation for Public Broadcasting provided. She noted that supervisors also took part in additional training geared toward helping supervisors maintain a workplace culture resistant to discrimination.

Shawanna LaVoy made the motion to accept the Diversity Report, which was seconded by Bob Vasquez. The motion passed unanimously.

President's Report

Mr. Kiser thanked Katie Cappellini and Cathy Schrein for participating in board orientation. He also gave a brief update on the progress of a fourth channel, noting that the staff was currently testing and refining the schedule. He also mentioned the channel is scheduled to launch the first week of October.

Chris Pfeiffer, project manager/senior producer and radio operations manager, provided an update on the "Voices Around Us™" project.

Matt Heyrman asked if the multimedia studio that the producers of our Voices podcasts use will be able to be used by others who are not part of the Voices project. It was noted that the current focus is just those who are participating in the "Voices Around Us™" project.

Theresa Morris mentioned that she would like to see a youth component to the "Voices Around Us™" project. Chris said that he was currently working on that.

New Business


Carol Contrada asked if there would be some marketing to roll out the launch of the new fourth channel. Mr. Kiser said that the marketing plan was being finalized. Matt Reny said they could currently see it promoted on our website's homepage. He said it is being promoted on our other channels as well. He said it would also be promoted on our social media sites.

Carol then mentioned there was an article in Current about potential funding of public local news programming. Mr. Kiser clarified that the article referred to the MacArthur Foundation, along with a number of other foundations that have taken the lead in making an initial investment in local news. Marlon indicated that preliminary thinking is that Ohio's public radio stations should come together for a statewide application under The Ohio Network, which is supported by Ohio's public radio stations. He said we're going to talk about The Ohio Network taking the lead to make an application for all the public radio stations. Marlon felt we would be in a better position if we went under the general umbrella of The Ohio Network. Matt Heyrman asked if Marlon saw us drilling down to a specific discipline or presenting broader news. Marlon said he needed to discuss both internally and externally to find out what the community needs. Matt suggested putting together a board subcommittee to prepare for when the funding is available.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Carol Contrada made the motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Ty Boyd. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Ann Sanford, Secretary



Date