

Board Present:

Ursula Barrera-Richards
Tasha Hussain Black
Ty Boyd*
Elizabeth Brown-Ellis*
Katie Cappellini
Carol Contrada
Matt Heyrman
Lisa Kahle-Piasecki*
Shawanna LaVoy
Theresa Morris*
Monika Ortiz
Charlene Patten*

Barb Petee*
Ann Sanford
Cathy Schrein
Olivia Summons*
Patricia Wast
Bob Vasquez

Staff Present:

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

COA Present:

Marna Ramnath

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, January 11, 2024, at noon at WGTE Public Media, 1270 S. Detroit Avenue, Toledo, Ohio.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairperson Bob Vasquez.

Minutes

Vice Chairperson Bob Vasquez called for the approval of minutes from the November 9, 2023, board meeting. Shawanna LaVoy moved to approve; it was seconded by Tasha Hussain Black. The motion was approved unanimously.

FY 2024 Year to-Date

Treasurer Wast noted that this report is for operating results through November 2023, the fifth month of the fiscal year. She pointed out that management did not have operating results through December because bank statements and other documents were not received in a timely manner. She then stated that as of November 30, 2023, the Foundation had actual revenues of \$1.4M with actual expenses of \$2.1M for an unfavorable operating margin of (\$700,000). She said that is unfavorable to budget by \$238K, an improvement over the prior report.

Carol Contrada made the motion to accept, which was seconded by Shawanna LaVoy. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer Wast informed the board that the finance committee will meet in February to review the financial performance of the foundation's funds, such as the endowment and the foundation's investment policy, with Fifth Third Bank and KeyBank.

Development Committee Report

Chairperson Tasha Hussain Black noted the development committee met earlier in January. She then read the committee's charter and briefly informed the directors that staff members presented their goals, needs, and actionable items they would like help with from the board. She noted that the committee wants to develop an elevator pitch and a print piece that makes the case to support WGTE Public Media.

Nominating Committee Report

Chairperson Shawanna LaVoy informed the board that the nominating committee would be convening in February to discuss potential new board candidates. She asked if anyone had suggestions to please let herself or Marlon know. She pointed out that Valerie Simmons-Walston had met with Marlon, and she was interested in being considered for a board appointment.

President's Report

Marlon Kiser had Raye Ann Langlois, director of membership, discuss a new membership initiative. Raye Ann noted that we are bringing back our Kids Club, which was started over 25 years ago. She said at the height of membership, we had around 900 kids participating. She said we will launch the Kids Club on January 22 for \$7 a month. She noted some benefits of the club, which include kids' names being aired on TV on their birthday along with a birthday card being sent. Members will receive a backpack filled with crayons, activity books, and stickers. Members will also receive advance notice of kid's events, a monthly newsletter, and access to Passport and our program guide.

Marlon then had Ray Miller, director of content and creative services, brief the board on our recent town hall. He said there were about 110 participants at the "Rethinking Jails + Justice" town hall. The town hall was part of a MacArthur Foundation grant. Carol Contrada complimented WGTE's professionalism and thought the town hall was well done. Bob Vasquez also attended the town hall and said that it was well organized and was proud of how professional the WGTE staff were. Carol Contrada asked how many podcasts have been produced for the project. Ray Miller said one was ready to release, and a second had been recorded but not yet edited.

Carol Contrada asked how the "Voices Around Us®" project was going. Marlon informed the board that it had six regular hosts and had three contracts for additional voices. He said the priority is to have more diversity of podcast producers.

Matt Heyrman asked if we had applied for a grant from the Press Forward initiative, part of a MacArthur Foundation grant. Marlon noted that we had not applied. Matt suggested putting together a group of people to discuss the grant. He suggested Simon Nyi and Holly Mathews.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Patricia Wast made the motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Cathy Schrein. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Ann Sanford, Secretary

Date