KUTE Inc.

KSUT Board of Directors

***Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, September 11*, 2024**

Present: Tami Graham, Executive Director, Wade Griffith, President (via zoom), Kirsten Langmade, Vice-President, Robert Ortiz, Secretary, Gary Skiba, Susan Kerns (via zoom), Eddie Box Jr. (via Zoom). Absent: Mike May and Mikki Naranjo.

1. **Call to Order: 5:32 pm**
2. **Approval of Meeting Agenda:** Motioned to approve by Gary; Seconded by Kirsten; Unanimously approved.
3. **Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes, August 14th, 2024**: Motioned to approve as amended by Susan; Seconded by Gary; Unanimously approved.
4. **Executive Director Report**
    a. Development
    b. Tribal Radio
    c. Four Corners Public Radio
    d. Tribal Media Center

Presented by Tami Graham:

First 2 quarters of 2021, approved by IRS. Same documentations, submitted for all five quarters, 36K+ from 1st quarter. Senator Bennet, IRS processing claims again. Sending check on 23rd, potentially before end of year. Defer to 2025, will report back to board. RB will contact let Linda Winkler (SUIT),

RTJ Grant will continue with 100% funding for Colton, and Tribal Media Center programs.

Grant through CDPHE for $73K for Tribal radio, information, programming, starting Feeding the Spirit, vaccine/health related topics. Half counts towards an offset 7K each, for administrative cost, towards operational, and a portion of salaries. Sheila, Lorena, Tami, and Robb. Allocated towards operational as opposed to programming.

Festival: Still counting tickets, festival went smooth. Looking at a loss up to $50-60K. Positive, want to find a way to make festival continue. Donor approached Tami, wanted to support festival committed $5K/year for next 10 years. Chris Aaland and Tami, made a pitch to Mark Kats, $50K/year contribution for 3 years – will take it into consideration. Identifying core donors, who love the festival, and see it continue, pitching how important to region, important KSUT and the development of musicians. Musicians, “I grew up picking at the festivals, now I’m on the main stage.” Happens because the festival happens. Chris and Tami high-level asks to make up from loss of FY24. Make festival sustainable, with overall goal of an endowment with up to $1M. Consciences and thoughtful about who we are asking, and supporting our events.

Susan: Do you have records on attendance? Special appeal to those who have attended over the years.

Tami: Regular Listener survey will be mailed out. KSUT will also want to send out an Attendee survey, late in the fall, to understand festival goers better. We had 1925, if we had 2300 attendees, we would’ve been fine. Can’t organizationally sustain a festival that losses that kind of money. Figuring out, getting support and if we are sustainable, and make the festival sustainable.

Susan: NPR just aired how festivals are down across the country, for attendance.

Tami: Blues and Brews, still have 3-day tickets available, which is unheard of. KSUT is by no means alone.

Two different events on night of Sept. 26, on-air and in Ignacio. KSUT and Rocky Mountain PBS are partnering for a rural screening of "Undivide Us" with community discussion, and screening. Which are happening all over the State, in partnership with RMPBS about Rocky Mountain PBS.

RMPBS, "Above the Noise" will air live a town-hall and conversation with live state-wide call-in about the urban divide. With KODO in Telluride and KGNU in Boulder, with call in, urban rural divide. Focus of ballot initiative Mountain lion hunting in Colorado to increasing community engagement.

With funds starting to roll in from Employee Retention Tax Credit (ERT), KSUT have a commitment to Alpine Bank, with first $100K from $180Kwill be allocated to Alpine Bank. Robb Brantley reached out to Alpine Bank, with update that 1st quarter payment will be received by end of Sept. with more to come.

Get with Mike, Susan, and Mikki, Finance Committee meeting at the end of Sept. to discuss the FY 25 budget, inclusive more so than usual, from Finance Committee, and engaged with the KSUT BOD.

Meeting with Wade to start a regular process for Major Donor asks. And addressing conversations where KSUT is fiscally.

Gary: We have the balance with tribe of 427K, what's anticipated on when that will be completely pay that?

Tami: Not until FY25 to paydown, unless we received a major gift. We will 83K eventually committed towards that, from $183K coming from the ERT, after the payment. Total payback from $225-235K, take the percentage from LLP, brings us to $183K.

See additional Executive Director reports.

Tami: Fall Pledge Drive, third week of October. Significant planning meeting, with development Team with Fall Pledge Drive, with mailer being sent.

Development: Colten Ashley, great job with grant writing, going well. With Tribal Media Center with its growth and evolution.

Gary: Tribal report. Congrats to Robert "REZ-olution Radio" on San Ignacio Parade float.

Robert: Just got third for Tribal Fair Parade for "REZ-olution Radio" Float.

Gary: Listener survey? Specific focus?

Tami: Broad-brush Listener Survey first, then member specific survey in the winter. "Why they give," "What motivates them to give more?" specific to members. For the "Listener Survey" Demographic information – How do you listen? Primarily, "Is it the stream, radio re-think app, is it terrestrial, where are you listening from?" Both Tribal and Four Corners, Ken and Sheila craft, "which programs are they listening to on each signal?" Listener habits; "how they tune in, when they tune in, what they like, what

they don't, what can we be doing more of, or less of" Check all that applies, with general comments. Checking patterns from listeners. Drawing for $100 gift certificate to Seven Rivers.

Susan: Experience with surveys I send out, we want to provide the boxes that the listener can check.

Tami: Yes! Check all that apply.

Gary: Listening session, about the Rocky Mountain Community Radio is doing, in the Urban Rural Divide. Interesting for KSUT, as it will be broadcast state-wide, representing the rural.

Tami: RimCore received a grant, to hire a full-time climate change reporter. Climate change and how it impacts rural Coloradoans. The reporter's station would host that reporter, working out of the station. KSUT could be hosting a full time Climate Reporter. Reporting for whole the region of Colorado.

Wade: As you continue to hear from IRS, keep me posted as new information comes in. As we get more information, we will keep the Board updated, and how that resolves.

Tami: maybe we should forward that email to John Wittney, thanking him.

Kirsten: Pledge Drive week, second week of October, 14 – 18, would we want to push back our next board meeting?

Tami: Only down side, the following week, KSUT will be hosting the RimCore conference, will be Wed. – Fri. However, next board meeting will be Oct. 9.

Wade: Just keep it, as to not push it back to three weeks.

No further questions or comments.

5. Committee Report No reports.

6. Open Board Seat: Southern Ute Tribal member

Tami: Did email Amy Barry, head of Tribal Information Services, can we include something in the mailer, that the Tribe sends out to whole membership. Has not received a reply.

Robert: Continuing to run the notice in the Drum, and on-air. The people that sit on boards, already sit on boards.

Tami: Possibility of First descendent, potentially being allowed to serve on the board.

Robert: That would be an amendment to the Bylaws. That's not detrimental to the integrity of the Board.

Tami: To Eddie Box Jr., As you know we've had an open Southern Ute Tribal member seat open for a year-half. Potentially allowing a first descendent to serve on the board, to keep the seat filled.

Eddie: Many, many offered a Tribal member a board seat. Maybe lowering it to first descendents. How do we entice a tribal member to be a board member. Constantly keep at them, make ourself more visible to tribal members.

Robert: I hosted a show, invited three members of the Powwow Committee, and Crystal Rizzo, Cultural Preservation Director, all tribal members, have not been in the new building. Maybe we have an invitation to tribal members, another open house, have them see for themselves. This is our building, "we want you to become a board member." For these individuals, to not know what this this building is, and what it contains, aside from listening.

Tami: Maybe we do something during the Fall Pledge Drive, put in the Drum, all over Tribal Radio, invite tribal members specifically.

Eddie: One of the great things that brings people together is FOOD! A dinner, or snacks are served, pick a night. We want to have a tribal gathering at KSUT. Invite our tribal members with food, then talk about it.

Tami: Come over for lunch, possibly during Farmer's Market.

Tami: KSUT worked Colton Black from Economic Development, give KSUT funding to push out info for the Farmer's Market.

Comments:

Gary announced the birth of his granddaughter.

Eddie and Betty broadcasted live on Tribal Radio, announced the Southern Ute Tribal Fair Parade. "Great big Thank You" to Tribal staff to put it together that morning.

Tami: "Shiela gave props to Lorena for working with Eddie and Betty."

Reminder: Tami – Eddie will be doing the opening blessing for the Rocky Mountain Community Radio Conference Oct. 24 at the Sky Ute Casino Resort. "Pleased Eddie will be doing that." Wednesday evening, and all-day Thursday, Tami inviting all BOD to the conference, for networking and discussion.

Susan: Announced her retirement.

7. **Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, October 9: 5:30 p.m.**

8. **Adjourn at 7:16 p.m.:** Motioned to adjourn by Gary, Seconded by Robert, Unanimously approved.