

Minutes

Community Advisory Board Meeting

March 5, 2020 5:00 pm

New Jersey Historical Society, 52 Park Place, Newark, NJ 07104

Present: J. Riman, Chair; M. Bess; D. Childress (teleconference); B. Feliciano, WBGO Board of Trustee Liaison; J. Harris; B. Hines; M. McDonough; A. Montague; P. Morgan; R. Noorigian, CAB Vice President; S. Schear, CAB Secretary

Absent: M. Bond; M. Counts

Staff: B. Ottenhoff, WBGO Acting President & CEO

Jeffrey Riman called the meeting to order at 5:04 pm.

Chair's Report

- Approval of Minutes – Barbara Hines moved to accept the minutes as read, Antoinette Montague seconded the motion.
- Summary of Today's Agenda
- Membership Update
 - The CAB has received membership applications from Carrie Jackson and Tammy Boxtton.
 - An ad hoc Membership Committee of Pamela Morgan, Barbara Hines, Jackie Harris, Dani Childress and Antoinette Montague will meet to refine the membership process.
- Leadership
 - Jeffrey has met with and updated Bob Ottenhoff on the status of the relationship of the CAB and the station.
 - Jeffrey noted that he tremendously enjoys his role as CAB Chair, however, welcomes nominations for the position.
 - Jeffrey explained that CAB Vice-Chair Rich Noorigian has been on the CAB for 5 years and would be moving to Emeritus status. Pamela Morgan has been appointed to serve as Vice-Chair.
 - Jeffrey noted that longtime CAB member, Virginia DeBerry, co-founder of the New Brunswick Jazz Project, and author, has become Member Emeritus. CAB Member, Michael Bond, has just released his first CD.

Jeffrey welcomed the public who were in attendance for the meeting. He provided a brief intro about CAB and its responsibilities which are outlined on the WBGO website <https://www.wbgo.org/community-advisory-board>.

Jeffrey distributed the new CAB flyer to be used as a marketing tool.

Report from Bob Ottenhoff

Acting President and CEO, Bob Ottenhoff, shared that he was one of the founders of WBGO. He highlighted that the station is supported by its listeners and needs to be responsive to its listeners. Upon its founding, a key decision was that the station would be independent which made WBGO more responsive and appreciative of its volunteers.

Bob noted that he is not taking WBGO back to 1979, but is thinking about moving forward. The signal ranges from the tri-state region to all over the world.

WBGO's Guiding Principles were underscored by Bob:

1. Respect for the artists and respect for the music – jazz in all its traditions -- educate, inform.
2. Appreciation of the city of its birth – started in Newark – always appreciate the city and will continue to respect it. Want people to see a global radio station – reach to be international in scope, however, it is Newark Public Radio.
3. Commit to Diversity and Inclusion: Board, Staff, CAB, diversity of Newark, diversity of people, diversity of jazz.
4. Recognize success based on involvement, impact and making a difference in people's lives – reservoir – deep love and affection. Focus on making WBGO a great station.

Under Bob's leadership, the focus is back to basic principles. WBGO staff has participated in two DEI (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Access) trainings. Training will continue on a regular basis. The Board will participate in a planned DEI training. Bob to hire people smarter than he is. Deeply gratified by the forward motion.

There are difficult challenges to managing WBGO: 60 to 70 people, different shifts, artistic temperaments. Position just posted for an HR Director to nurture, attract, and retain talented and skilled people who are appreciated, recognized, and making a difference – a great place to work.

WBGO needs:

- New Program Director
- Search for new President and CEO
- Attract a few more Board Members

Dorthaan Kirk's Bridge to Community – Dorthaan Kirk Opportunity Fund – only employee in 40 years to be recognized by the NEA (National Endowment for the Arts) as a 2020 Jazz Master on April 1 & 2, 2020 (postponed due to COVID-19). Dorthaan Kirk Week – live interview, proclamation by the City of Newark

Bob expressed that WBGO is receiving lots of love, people have a strong relationship with the station. Just completed a three-day fund drive that exceeded goals.

Q & A with Bob from CAB

- Barbara Hines – noted succession planning. Concern that staff are receiving all benefits: healthcare, therapy, prescriptions; salary structure and benefits need improvement, bring HR expertise to WBGO.
- Antoinette Montague – goal to be global. Concern for Newark: on air hosts to mention “the greatest city of Newark” – play artists from Newark, pump city that they are immersed in.
- Rich Noorigian – Soul of WBGO – programming, Bob Porter, swing, R&B, would like to see Jazz Archives revived, look at rather than satellite radio. Rich noted that Kenny Washington was at February Board meeting and indicated that there many ways to listen to music, experience, connections.
- Pamela Morgan – recommended open lines of communication, diversifying program such as Afro-Pop; developing a series of playlists to be housed on the website to listen to at the pool, summer.
- Jackie Harris – programming and also everything that WBGO is doing; reaching younger audiences, i.e. Play WBGO to Alexa
- Susan Schear – recommended opening the front window screen to bring in and welcome the community since doors are required to be locked for security. Place speakers outside the building (with proper permits – David Tallacksen noted that the structure is on the historic registry) to engage people as they walk by.
- CAB member recommended that WBGO artist members can pay a fee to upload their music.

Next Meeting

April 2 meeting is postponed. Meeting to occur late April.

- Topic to focus on for next meeting – Programming and Media: Their Intersection – influence of satellite radio, other platforms. Non-broadcast distribution and competition, understand all different channels of distribution and how the world is changing, radio delivery methodologies. **Listener Supported Radio Station.**
- Bob to provide update.
- Jeffrey invited Dorthaan Kirk to the next CAB meeting.

Public Comment

- Eric Tate – expressed concern that jazz concerts for kids disappeared – in the best interest of the station and Jazz House Kids – bring programming back.
 - Is there a conduit that puts on Pandora/Spotify? Bob noted more music focus, working with artists and labels – WBGO is a distributor, WBGO APP Information, Education, Entertainment.

- WBGO journal – on 6:30 am → change time.
- Tammy Boxtton – music teacher. Loves WBGO! She shares from the community.
 - Recommended bring back children’s jazz; make sure to include women “Keep Her Trust”.
 - Return of the Gallery?

Adjournment –The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Susan Schear, Secretary

April 23, 2020