

Meeting Minutes

Community Advisory Board Meeting
April 30, 2020 5:00 pm
Virtual Meeting

Present: J. Riman, Chair; D. B. Feliciano, WBGO Board of Trustee Liaison; J. Harris; B. Hines; M. McDonough; A. Montague; P. Morgan, Vice-Chair; S. Schear, Secretary

Absent: M. Bess; M. Bond; M. Counts

Emeritus: R. Noorigian

Staff: B. Ottenhoff, WBGO Acting President & CEO, David Tallacksen, Vice President, Operations and Engineering

Jeffrey Riman called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm.

Jeffrey provided an update on the CAB:

- 12 members, 5 applications (2 previously received, 3 received today) being reviewed by the Membership Committee
- People finding the CAB through the website
- Jeffrey described the CAB member review process

Report from Bob Ottenhoff

Bob welcomed and thanked all CAB members, grateful for all who listen and support WBGO, appreciates members of the public who are joining tonight's CAB meeting: broadcast is one-way, and the CAB meeting is two-way engagement.

- Part One – Dealing with the Crisis – First priority is the safety and health of all WBGO staff and family members; entire WBGO staff is safe and healthy
 - Sent all administration home on March 15
 - Tech wizards and David Tallacksen found a remote system to enable all announcers and news teams to record from home
- Response fantastic – new listeners throughout the world, giving comfort, companionship, goal of WBGO
- Passing of two Board Members – Steve Edwards and Sam McGee, longtime former (Board) member and former chair
- \$750.0 - \$1 million shortfall
 - Some funding is fixed such as CPB, get support from NJSCA, restricted benefit from NPR for Jazz Night in America
 - Some revenue is variable, sponsorship and underwriting plunged to zero

- To date membership has not dropped in renewals, some have returned as members from past years
- Don't know with 27 million out of work – what will happen
- May 5 – Giving Day and May 15-17 – three days of fundraising with live volunteers, pledges online, backup system – announcers will be using broadcast system
- Part Two – Blessed to be Open, Safe and Healthy
 - In a special place, obligation to give back; today is International Jazz Day – recognizing online, Nate Chinen interviewing two artists, tonight at 7 pm – fanfare to celebrate city workers, promoting celebration – in gratitude for frontline workers
 - Nate Chinen and Simon Ratner nominated from Jazz Journalists Association
 - Giving back
 - Music Education Hub – launched a few days ago, bring parents, teachers, students, jazz musicians, music instructors, online platform for education – all organizations and teachers involved
 - Livestreaming to bring to one place – listing of all the live concerts across the country and in the metropolitan area – a great way to connect musicians to potential audiences – just finalized arrangements to supplement with NPR's music education as the live sight – Simon to build out and curate – NPR will use as wider distribution
 - Brit Harley – trying to build more Newark based coverage
- Q&A
 - Rich very pleased by Education Hub, lesson plan, very comprehensive program, something CAB talked about a long time, cultivate new listeners, station sounded beautiful, seamless, great job
 - Bob- expanded number of newscasts – takes a lot of experience to sync with news feed – credit to David Tallacksen
 - Antoinette – happy focusing on Newark – looking for more musicians
 - Jeffrey – tone and temper of station, warm, welcoming, reactive; Jeffrey thanked Bob, so much talent at the station
 - Bob really pleased to get to know the staff, very talented, extremely dedicated, hard-working, working well together
 - Barbara –noted writing and website, Brain talking about 41st year, finding another level to international connection, now can see world class musicians

- Bob – connection, in time of crises, station has become more valuable – sense of connection, offer comfort, companionship, difference in music selection – when talk about getting back to normal – not the way it was before – Bob tweeted about Herbie Hancock – virus is showing part of the same humanity, come of out crisis with relationship to each other, giving back
- Jeffrey – jazz so available to everyone, great opportunity – shared with his students – interest in ways that can go further
- Jeffrey -- looking ahead to the future – holding CAB meetings in different locations, mentioned at National Jazz Museum in Harlem, poor attendance, what would the community like for CAB and what would be the best way to go about that
 - Susan recommended community spaces in Newark senior residences
 - Barbara – live, Zoom, be at venues where WBGO is presenting – always have the opportunity, well attended
- Jeffrey – CAB supports WBGO community at grassroots
- Jeffrey recommended CAB sponsored events with a performance
 - Bob liked the idea – a great way to encourage participation, meeting first, then free entertainment
 - Mike – we go to the community, then they come to us, hold meetings
 - Mention locations
 - Clements place, senior buildings, schools
 - Performance from local talent
 - Susan made recommendation to pay artists
 - Bob noted that paying the artists is a guiding value, principal of the station
- Nate Chinen working on a blog post on the CAB – would be grateful to have blog on the website
- Giving during the Crisis
 - Jackie shared between April 14 to 20 – Louis Armstrong Foundation took money from its investment to pay freelancers – \$1,000 for 1000 musicians in NY, NJ, Conn, PA. Freelance artists, working in the NY/Metro region, great concern for the next 30 months as things will be shut down. The Foundation is working to raise funds to send a second check to musicians – if they raise money the second round will pay artists who have no income. Jackie shared some testimonials the Foundation has received from the artists; some artists have no food. The Foundation is looking to identifying more funding for the cultural stability of the arts/artists. Jackie reached out the WBGO first -- Doug Doyle interviewed Wynton Marsalis.

Public Comment

- Tremendous service, brilliant – but doing for free – is WBGO able to connect any streams and put on the air, encouraging musicians to put together a mini recital? Get every station to include and then go to every foundation to get them to pay for it – connects to what Jackie was saying
- Put on Facebook Live and then get 60, 000 views

- Bob noted that Simon is going to amplify a few artists a week and put on air, include a broadcast component
- Yearning for NJ – NJ getting so hard hit, by going to WBGO get a Jersey-sense of the story, the listener needs that, others may be doing too, embedded in being a WBGO listener, also of the music
 - Bob noted that Mayor Baraka does his program from WBGO once a month and Governor Murphy does so as well, doubled number of broadcasts although difficult for the news team
- Jeffrey welcomed former employees – Bob recognized them
 - Former employee thanked everyone, super good stuff for connecting the community, thanked Jackie for focus on Jazz Foundation's to musicians
 - Recommended another day to support musicians – to give to the Louis Armstrong Foundation or Jazz Foundation America
- Recommendation to have more Zoom meetings – recommend more evening and weekend meetings – get more participation
 - Jeffrey believes it's beneficial with Zoom – don't want to stop virtual meetings, to include in by-laws
- Grateful for the live music streams – appreciate the livestream, gave students an assignment related to WBGO
 - Bob welcomes the listener's suggestions on the education platform
- Loves the virtual meeting, thanked all for the opportunity to sit in

Action Items

- CAB members – concept of meeting in different locations
 - Antoinette suggested locations
 - Doing combo of performance at meetings, can be done while online as well
- Jeffrey noted that Rich is spearheading by-laws for the CAB as the CAB does not have any by-laws, an amalgam of NPR and CPB by-laws, Bob is supportive of this concept
 - Committee – Rich (chair), Jackie, Mike, Susan
- Jeffrey – proposed to Bob to bring Brit to the next meeting. Brit is focused on Newark and Newark-specific issues
 - Bob noted that last week Brit addressed how people are impacted by Covid during a public virtual meeting
- Barbara requested update on the search at next month's meeting

Bob thanked Jeffrey and the CAB for the work the CAB is doing, so encouraging, so supportive, always wanting WBGO to be better.

Jeffrey thanked colleagues for everything.

Adjournment –The meeting was adjourned at 6:09 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Susan Schear, Secretary

May 30, 2020