The Iowa Public Radio board of directors held their regular meeting June 17, 2008 at the Embassy Club in Des Moines. Present for the meeting were directors Art Neu, Warren Madden, Kay Runge and Steve Carignan. Director Steve Parrott participated by phone. Also present were Executive Director Cindy Browne and members of the senior management team: Wayne Jarvis, Robin Fraser, Joan Kjaer and Don Wirth.

Chair Neu called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. Don Wirth requested that the purpose for the funds disbursement to KUNI and W/KSUI be noted in the May 7th meeting minutes. Runge moved and Madden seconded approval of the revised minutes of the previous meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Peter Brown, Buyers Realty, presented financial spreadsheets on the three buildings under consideration for IPR’s Des Moines studios and offices. He reviewed the phase-in options associated with each building, allowing IPR to delay studio construction until all capital funds are identified. In discussion, it was clear that the Grand Avenue building is the preferred of these three options. Runge moved that we make this our first choice and Madden seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

The re-emergence of the Papajohn building as an option was discussed. The discussion included the pros and cons of IPR residing within a university-owned building and the implications for community perception and fundraising. Runge moved and Madden seconded that we should take 30-days to explore this option, presenting the best case scenario for fulfilling IPR’s needs in the building. If UI is unable to respond in that time period, we will drop the building from consideration. The motion carried unanimously. Runge and Carignan will follow up with Peter Brown to determine next steps with the Grand Avenue property.

Wirth presented the FY 09 compensation plan, which meets the requirements of all three universities as well as the Board’s request that we set a 4% pool limit and bring in a balanced FY 09 budget. He then reviewed the FY 09 budget, providing further details on selected revenue, expense and capital lines. It was requested that Jarvis provide additional detail about current and future capital projects at an upcoming meeting.

Madden moved approval of the FY 09 budget, which was seconded by Parrott and unanimously approved.

Wirth requested approval of Cremers, Holtzbauer and Nearmyer to perform the IPR FY 08 audit at a cost not to exceed $8,750. Madden moved to approve his request, which was seconded by Runge and unanimously approved. Wirth noted that We will select one firm to perform all four audits for FY 09.

The IPR presentation for the August Regents’ meeting was discussed. Most items are complete or underway. Wirth is working with ISU’s Pam Elliott-Cain to create the appropriate budget materials for the meeting. Still to be determined is who will present on behalf of IPR.

Progress on the Executive Director transition was reviewed by Steve Carignan, who has received a proposal for a full-fledged search from Livingston Associates. He will follow up to explore ala carte options. The idea of a parallel search in the nonprofit sector still holds value for the Board, but rather
than hiring a firm, IPR will utilize its air, website and advertising to attract Iowa nonprofit executives. Wirth reminded the Board that we need to write the criteria broadly to make sure that interesting candidates aren’t disqualified due to lack of radio or broadcast experience. It was also noted that the Board and senior team should be surveyed to identify candidates within and outside the public radio industry. Finally, it was agreed that Carignan and Browne will work on the position description to be used to market the position and to share it with the Board.

The agreement outlining Carignan’s assignment as Acting Director was reviewed. Madden moved its approval, with a second from Runge and unanimous board approval. Carignan’s role on the Board during the period was discussed and it was agreed that he should continue as a Board member and abstain from voting when appropriate. Runge requested that regular “Board Notes” be sent, with special attention to progress on the ED search process.

Browne reviewed the short and long term strategic issues facing IPR during this next phase of its development and a productive discussion ensued.

Browne recognized the tremendous collaboration across the network to keep things moving smoothly during the Iowa City floods, with a special acknowledgement to the members of the senior team. She also thanked the senior team for their support over the past three years.

The Board took a break at 4:50 PM to recognize Browne’s efforts as the founding director of Iowa Public Radio. Cake was enjoyed and Chair Neu presented Browne with Bill Bryson’s book, “The Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid,” signed by each of the Board members. Browne thanked the Board for their steadfast support during a time of great change and for the opportunity to be part of creating something that will be a valued service to Iowans for decades to come.

The meeting resumed at 5:15 at which time Browne presented her recommendations for Director merit increases. The Board shared their opinions, which will be taken under consideration.

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Browne, Executive Director