

**KZYX/MENDOCINO COUNTY PUBLIC BROADCASTING**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**MARCH 7, 2016**  
**WILLITS LIBRARY**  
**MINUTES**

THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 6:03 P.M.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Meg Courtney, Lorraine Dechter, Jane Fatcher, Jenness Hartley, Ed Keller, Benj Thomas, John Sakowicz

Absent: Clay Eubank

**APPROVAL OF LAST MEETING'S MINUTES:** Unanimous

**MATTERS FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT:** Meg Courtney

–GROUND RULES: Meg appointed Jenness to be the Meeting Facilitator

–THANK YOUS: Meg expressed thanks to Lorraine Dechter, the new GM: Jane Fatcher, elections coordinator and election ballot workers and stampers, including Jenness, Ed, Bob and several others. Ed Keller was thanked for building a covered area outside where staff can sit.

–FUNDRAISING: Meg mentioned some of the fundraisers coming up, including Amy Goodman in Willits, April 16; a Willits house party April 23; a Mother's Day fundraiser with Starchild chocolate; a Church of the Boogie Woogie party with a Boogie Woogie diva in June. She thanked Catherine Keegan and Tim Bray for taking on many fundraising events for KZYX and for requiring board and staff do very little.

**MATTERS FROM BOARD MEMBERS:**

Jane Fatcher reported that board election was proceeding and the on-air forum went well.

John Sakowicz welcomed Lorraine and expressed hope that KZYX will collaborate with low-power channels like KMEC, also using digital platforms and many new technologies that expand the station's reach and can be the source of potential revenues.

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

–Elections Report by Jane not needed because of above check-in

–No Finance Committee report due to Clay's absence

**PRESENTATION OF MENDOCINO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' COMMENDATION TO MARY AIGNER BY TOM WOODHOUSE:** Tom Woodhouse read an eloquently worded recognition of Mary Aigner's 22 years of service as a staff member of KZYX. (See Attached)

**COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD REPORT FROM ELLEN SAXE**

Ellen summarized the results of a CAB public meeting in Elk in February. She chose an area that the station does not always reach out to but was disappointed with the turnout despite the fact that the meeting was well publicized. About 10 people attended. She said transparency of the board and station was a big issue and there were requests for:

1. On-air CAB meetings
2. On-air Board meetings
3. On-air discussions with board representatives
4. The board should stop using a closed board list serve and confidential meetings

5. Simple living membership of \$25 should be announced on the air
6. Controversy comes from exclusion — Someone said that when the Mendocino School Board adopted a more open stance their meetings became less contentious and shorter.

Ellen reported many comments about the board's conduct, including:

- Board should state what its rules are and follow the process
- Board should not let a few people make all the decisions
- Board should make transparency a priority
- Board needs to follow through as new board members replace outgoing members.
- Board should be more responsive.

Several of those attending want access to the membership list with an opt-out clause for folks who don't want to be contacted.

Other suggestions:

- Hire a volunteer coordinator
- contact nonmembers through public meetings
- Restore safe harbor
- State what happened with Ukiah studio funds
- Start a program council that had decision-making power
- Pay attention to the South Coast so people in Gualala can tune in.
- Encourage more participation by young people
- Define and follow the process for choosing programmers
- Institute a grievance procedure for former programmers
- Form Ad Hoc committees of members for pursuing specific issues
- Take seriously the decline in membership
- Encourage and support local programmers

BREAKS: During the meeting, possibly during Ellen's presentation, a reporter covering the meeting and a candidate for the board interrupted frequently and claimed the board president was not following clear procedures. The facilitator called short break to establish calm.

## NO ACTION ITEMS

### STATE OF THE STATION REPORT — Lorraine Dechter

Lorraine did not submit a written report. She introduced Jerry Fraley, the interim Operations Manager, who was not present, and Raoul Van Haul, who introduced himself and his long experience in broadcasting, particularly in Portland, Oregon. Lorraine announced new Native American programming, a five-minute syndicated segment for which she has not yet found the perfect time slot. She said our expenses for the month of January were triple what was budgeted because it was costly covering the vacant program manager and ops manager positions.

### PUBLIC COMMENT:

Jeff Wright: Thanked Lorraine for unraveling the "trainwreck she was left with." Said the satellites studios are working better and he asked that the "safe harbor" from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. be restored. He encouraged KZYX to participate in joint events with KMUD and promote the Seven Rivers Network.

Sheila Dawn Tracy: Said members should be able to communicate with each other; wants safe harbor restore; would like a written GM report; feels new KZYX newsletter should have gone in the silent drive letter.

Sarah: Requested results of fundraisers and pledge drives be published on the KZXY Web site and promoted on the Web site in advance

Fran Koliner: Welcomed Lorraine

Ellen Saxe: Gave out her email address so others can receive summary of CAB meeting

Lyn Dee Johnson: Wants each board member to have a sign with their names so people know who they are; said this was an “emotional transition” that is hard on listeners, too, as they hear new voices on the air, etc. She, or someone else, remarked that the FCC investigation of KZXY led to a decision by the staff to end safe harbor because of concerns the station might lose its license if the FCC heard bad language on the air.

The meeting ended at 8 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Jane Futcher, Board VP

**Adendum: Mendocino Board of Supervisors’ letter of Commendation to Mary Aigner. Signed by Tom Woodhouse and Dan Gjerde, delivered at the meeting March 7, 2016**

Mary Aigner tirelessly served Mendocino County for 22 years through her work at KZXY. During her tenure as program director, she exhibited an unflagging dedication to community radio in general and Mendocino County Public Broadcasting in particular. The station was more than a job to her, it was a career and a passion, often placed before her own personal life.

Mary exhibited dedication to the listening community by

- Cultivating familiarity with the various communities of the region, and the issues confronting each of them. She often helped to arrange discussions of those issues on the station’s public affairs programs and newscasts”
- Maintaining steadfast awareness, and unwaveringly correct instincts about the preferences of the public radio listening community, and representing them in any meeting, conversation, or decision in which she was involved. “How will it benefit the listeners?” was the perspective she always brought to the table.
- Facing recurring challenges from small segments of the community about programming, remaining firmly rooted in her convictions and professional expertise about how to serve the majority of listeners and how to make KZXY the best possible community station.
- Being willing to engage in conversation with any listener, and personally respond to their questions and concerns

Mary exhibited dedication to the station by:

- Understanding and being able to operate and manage all the station’s equipment, and keeping herself abreast of the evolving technology
- Being available 24/7 to handle last-minute changes, trouble-shoot technical difficulties and support other staff members in their efforts to seek resolution
- Being available to facilitate special programming – coming in on weekends and evenings to update the station’s automated broadcast system
- Helping produce live remote broadcasts, and fundraising events
- Remaining ever mindful of the regulations which govern public radio stations

Mary exhibited dedication to the station’s volunteer programmers by:

- Training, guiding, and assisting on-air volunteers, whatever their level of skill or experience
- Helping find substitute hosts for absent programmers, often filling in herself on short notice
- Always being available to programmers, even on weekends or when out of town, to instruct,

support, and trouble-shoot unexpected on-air difficulties

- Actively interfacing with record companies, and content providers, to keep the flow of new music and programming coming to the station

- Alerting programmers to new music or events which might be of interest to their audience

- Facilitating interview opportunities for programmers with performers and public figures

Tom Woodhouse & Dan Gjerde