

MINUTES
WRKF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Meeting date: Wednesday, February 15, 2017, at 10:00 a.m., Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Call to Order: A meeting of the WRKF Board of directors was held in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, on Wednesday, February 15, 2017, at 5:00 p.m.

1. Roll Call.

Members in attendance at roll call: Leonard Apar, Jim Brandt, Mary Kay Carleton, Luke “Joe” Cousson, J.E. Cullens, Jr., Robyn Merrick, Jenee Slocum, Mary Ann Sternberg, Cyril Vetter

Representing station operations: Paul Maassen, Barbara Clark, Latricia Huston

2. Approval of minutes of previous meeting(s).

Prior minutes approved by unanimous consent.

3. Financial Report.

Jim Brandt **moved**, seconded by Jenee Slocum, to approve the 2017 budget as presented to the Board. (Attachment A). **Motion passed.**

Rodd Naquin entered the meeting.

4. Founders’ Luncheon Report.

Paul discussed the issues presented and possibilities of NPR personalities who may be options to speak at the luncheon. It was agreed that Jim Brandt and Mary Ann Sternberg would explore contacting Walter Isaacson and Michael Lewis as possible speakers. In addition, it was agreed that Robin Roberts would be added to the list of possible speakers.

There was discussion on the need to expand the Crowne Plaza ballroom capacity from the previously used 2/3 to the use of the full ballroom.

5. Possible relocation to LSU.

It was reported that J.E. Cullens, Cyril Vetter, and Paul Masse had previously met with representatives of LSU. The general impression as positive, but there remained an issue involving the necessary costs associated with renovation of the facility. It does not appear that LSU will bear those costs. In light of WRKF’s expression that it is not currently in apposition to bear these costs, LSU will go back to the LSU Foundation to explore funding options.

Paul advised that the talks involving the possible move to LPB remain alive, but involve their own associated costs. While the LPB move appears to involve less cost, the LSU move would have the benefit of the association with LSU.

Paul also advised that the possible LSU Manship School/WRKF collaboration remains viable regardless of any move or non-move and he will continue to explore option in those regards.

6. Status of grant applications.

The process continues to move forward and all discussions are moving towards the awarding of the CPB WRKF-WWNO Collaboration Grant. Paul explained that the grant will involve both a consultant/strategic planning aspect followed by a staffing implementation aspect.

7. WRKF Listener Trip to Cuba.

Paul Maassen distributed a flyer for the proposed travel club's introductory trip to Cuba in January 2018. Paul explained a similar trip was instituted with WWNO; can be used in fundraising; and can be used in a donor cultivation. **Motion** by Mark Kay Carleton, seconded by Mary Ann Sternberg, to authorize Paul Maassen to move forward with the travel program. **Motion passed.**

8. Other matters.

By acclamation, the Board Meeting entered executive session.

By acclamation, the Board Meeting exited executive session.

Barbara Clark provided an update on underwriting – 2016 finished over budget and 2017 is looking very positive to do the same.

Latrishia Huston provided an update on membership. Sustaining membership increased 40% in 2016.

9. Adjournment.

Motion by J.E. Cullens, seconded by Joe Cousson, to adjourn. **Motion passed.**

Respectfully submitted:

Rodd Naquin
Secretary

Approved at the May 17, 2017 Board of Directors Meeting
and signed _____, 2017.

J.E. Cullens, Chairman