



WMHT Public Media
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**WMHT Educational Telecommunications
WMHT Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
September 19, 2019**

A Meeting of the WMHT Board of Trustees was held on September, 2019 at WMHT, Troy, New York; Chair: John Kolb presided. The meeting opened at 4:10

Present

John Kolb (phone)	Susan Novotny
Robert Altman	Karen Opalka
Doris Fischer Malesardi	Mary Ellen Piche
Mona Golub	William Picotte
Kathy Jimino	Joseph Richardson
Susan Kress	Estela Rivero
Annemarie Lanesey	Viki Sand

Excused

Prentiss Carnell	Steady Moono
Karen Carpenter-Palumbo	Lee A. McElroy Jr
Gloria DeSole	Harry Rutledge
	Maggie Vinciguerra

Also Attending

WMHT Staff: Sandra Beer, Val Belden, Mary Gribulis, George Hauenstein, Julie Raskin, Joseph Tovares and Chris Wienk.

Call to Order

Mr. Kolb called the meeting to order at 4:10 PM.

***Consent Agenda
Items***

On a motion by Ms. Malesardi seconded by Mr. McElroy the consent agenda of minutes and notes listed below was unanimously approved by the Board of Trustees.

Minutes and Notes

- June 13, 2019 Board Meeting
- July 11, 2019 Investment Committee Meeting
- July 18, 2019 Audit Committee Meeting
- September 12, 2019 Finance Committee Meeting

Finance Committee

Mr. Altman reported on behalf of Mr. Rutledge.

For a last, pre-audit look at FY19, it was noted that the year ended as last predicated. Net Income before depreciation was \$234,111, better than budget and \$230,936 better than prior year actuals. This was driven by greater production income than anticipated and good cost controls.

For FY20 through the end of August, net income before depreciation is \$25,797 lower than budget and \$4,242 better than prior year actuals. Operational Income is \$102,515 worse than budget and \$1,755 better than prior year actuals. Membership

in August last week had the last big fundraising week compared to the smaller, year round way of pledging in FY20 so it isn't a helpful comparison. Mr. Altman remains cautious, noting that we will not enjoy the kind of expense savings, mostly in salary, that was very helpful last year... The other challenge this year will be a big change in how we do membership fundraising with the move to a new database and service bureau.

***Governance
Committee***

Ms. Golub, on behalf of the Governance Committee, shared that Prentiss Carnell has submitted his resignation. We are grateful for his service for many years on WMHT's board.

In regard to bringing new members to the board, Ms. Golub presented Dr. Don Applys for nomination. His nomination was unanimously approved.

The Governance Committee is vetting candidates at this time but would welcome more potential candidates. Geographically, a candidate from Fulton / Montgomery Counties area would be welcome.

***Strategic Plan
Update***

Trustees will meet on October 24th for a strategic planning retreat to further the year-long planning process. This retreat will be followed by a reception for trustees and their spouses at EMPAC.

Fall Programming

Mr. Tovaes presented the following about upcoming local fall programming. We are on schedule for a January launch of a new version of AHA! – our local and regional arts series. We have put in place a new editorial process for the broadcast component of New York Now and in the next few months we will start work on the digital component of the public affairs series.

We are working closely with the Office of Early Learning of the New York State Education Department. We will have 250 teachers in the building over two days in November and December for taping of an Office of Early Learning Conference featuring four Keynote presentations that we will record for distribution by the Education Department.

Producer Zeke Kubisch is working on a ½ hour program on the Music Scene in the Capitol Region in the 60s and 70s . WMHT reached out via social media for contributions to this documentary and has gotten a great deal of response.

Producer Jessica Marshall has worked on episodes of Innovation Hall and is the lead producer on the Creative Capital project a culmination of our partnership with the Alliance for the Creative Economy. Ms. Marshall then spoke about the Creative Economy project and shared a clip. The documentary will first air on September 30th.

Mr. Tovaes concluded the presentation with clips from Lena: A Life of Folk, by producer Nicole Van Slyke, which will premiere on television this evening.

President's Report

Mr. Altman shared that the Lena: A Life of Folk screening was very well attended and well received. This was so well researched that there were surprises for people who had known Lena.

Mr. Altman confirmed that WMHT has moved our channel on August 2nd as scheduled but had to move to the auxiliary antenna, but WMHT is expecting to get on the main antenna by the end of next week.

Fall fundraisers on the radio and a planned giving mailing are all scheduled for October. The radio staff have been at many musical events throughout the summer. Radio ratings show the increase that we were expecting from the existence of the new signal 106.1. WMHT is posting an increasing number of podcasts by our radio and video production staffs. We are getting great response to Ken Burns' latest series about Country Music.

Mr. Altman shared comments about the dashboard, noting that there are some aggressive goals this year, especially in regard to digital audiences.

Resolution re: Karen Hitchcock

Mr. Kolb read the following resolution. On a motion by Mr. Richardson seconded by Mr. McElroy the board unanimously approved the following resolution.

Resolution upon the Death of Karen R. Hitchcock Ph.D. by the Board of Trustees of WMHT Educational Telecommunications

Karen Hitchcock was a longtime friend of WMHT and served as a valued member of its Board of Trustees from 2011-2018 and as Chair from 2015-2017 during a period of great growth and success for the station due, in large part, to her inspirational leadership. Her wisdom, experience, and commitment to excellence served WMHT well during this time, as did her forward-thinking and irrepressible optimism.

Karen came to WMHT after a long and distinguished career as an educator. The wide respect she earned from an extraordinary network of colleagues and friends served WMHT well. She was a passionate ambassador for the work of WMHT, sharing its commitment to public service, to education, and to the cultural community of our region.

WMHT, and the region it serves, are much stronger because of her unselfish commitment, as are the many other organizations who benefitted from the generous gift of her service.

Be it therefore resolved that the Trustees of WMHT Educational Telecommunications express their great sadness and sense of loss upon the death of their friend and colleague and extend their condolences to her brothers Roy and Garrett and her entire family.

Chair's Report

Mr. Kolb had no further report.

Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. McElroy seconded by Ms. Sand the board unanimously approved adjourning the meeting at 5:27 pm