

**NPR Illinois Community Advisory Board
June 30, 2022 Meeting Summary**

ATTENDEES

Executive: Bethany Jaeger (chair), Adam Porter (vice chair)
Members: Deanie Brown, Jamie Dunn-Thomason, David Kohn, Gina Kovach, Laurence Msall, Kent Redfield, Nikita Richards, Christina Schutt
Ex-officio: Sean Crawford, Randy Eccles, Terri Hempstead, Kate McKenzie
Absent: Natalie Beck, Cindi Canary, John Carpenter, Kelly Glass, Bill Holland, Lisbeth Leanos, Chuck Scholz, Richard Schuldt, George Van Dusen

MEETING SUMMARY

1. The meeting began at 12:06 p.m. by Zoom. Chair Bethany Jaeger welcomed everyone.
2. This meeting served as the CAB's annual meeting to nominate a slate of new CAB members and to discuss a draft report about whether NPR Illinois is meeting the educational and cultural needs of the community.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

3. The CAB Nominating Committee included Jamey Dunn-Thomason, Bethany Jaeger, Regina Kovach, Adam Porter, and Nikita Richards. The committee facilitated a public application process for seeking individuals interested in CAB service. The public application process enriched the search and resulted in 25 applicants, building a pool for future candidates and opportunities for ongoing dialogue.
4. The CAB's Nominating Committee nominated eight candidates for terms spanning July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2025.
 - a. The CAB's bylaws allow between 18 and 27 members. The CAB currently has 19 voting members.
 - b. The nominations aligned with the CAB's priorities of a full spectrum of diversity, including age, race/ethnicity, political affiliation and rural/urban representation. The nominees include:
 - i. Two who are younger than age 34, four who are between age 35-55, and two who are older than 56.
 - ii. Five Caucasian and two African Americans.
 - iii. Four in Sangamon County, two in Cook County, one in Macon County, and one in Aurora.
 - iv. Four who identify as Democrats, two who identify as Independents, one who identifies as Republican, and one who identifies as Libertarian.

5. The nominees include:
 - a. Steve Anderson
 - b. Teresa Jones
 - c. Jen McMillan
 - d. Michael Morthland
 - e. Jody Ogilvy
 - f. Garth Reynolds
 - g. Dr. Erma Brooks Williams
 - h. Mia Woods
6. The Nominating Committee also nominated Adam Porter to serve as Chair for a one-year term of July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023.
7. The Nominating Committee will identify a nominee for Vice Chair before the next CAB meeting.

NPR ILLINOIS UPDATES

8. NPR Illinois has a new Director of Development, Kate McKenzie, a former journalist who most recently worked in the University of Illinois Springfield Division of Advancement. Her experience combines the passion for journalism and the marketing, communications and fundraising essential to NPR Illinois. Her most recent role in the UIS Division of Advancement included crafting NPR Illinois email solicitations. Kate reports directly to the UIS Associate Vice Chancellor for Development but is located in the NPR Illinois office on campus and works very closely with Randy Eccles as GM.
9. NPR Illinois has also hired a business manager, Claire Fisher and a sponsorship account executive, Cory Pitt.
10. Two searches remain for a second sponsorship account executive and a reporter/editor/host position.
11. NPR Illinois' *50>Forward Plan* has been delayed with the eight-month absence of a Director of Development. Donations, sponsorship and major giving are down from the prior year, but the fulfillment of two key positions will focus on increasing revenue in the coming fiscal year. The creation of a quasi-endowment fund is designed to follow donor intent and build a principal that will earn interest to support NPR Illinois operations. NPR Illinois has the flexibility of using the principal if needed for a rainy day.
12. NPR Illinois staff members are participating in a year-long training with other public radio stations across the country to support the broader Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging (DEIB) efforts. Inclusion invites people to engage with NPR Illinois, but belonging is what keeps them engaged. The hope is to apply the training to growing the NPR Illinois audience.

13. NPR Illinois plans a series of efforts around listening sessions, which will be facilitated to learn what audiences need from NPR Illinois. The NPR Illinois *Community Voices* team is leading the effort. The CAB will be asked to support the outreach to identify audience segments and to attend each event. The NPR Illinois team will inform the CAB in advance of each event, with the first tentatively scheduled for fall 2022.
14. The NPR Illinois editorial team focused on primary elections, with WBEZ's Statehouse news service supporting NPR Illinois' coverage. The focus will shift to the general election with plans for locally generated stories and live local coverage this fall. The NPR Illinois Statehouse team will cover the Illinois General Assembly's special session in July 2022. Special live coverage of the Congressional hearings of the January 6, 2021 insurrection on the Capitol has preempted local coverage in the past month.

CAB ANNUAL REPORT TO THE NPR ILLINOIS GOVERNING BODY

15. Bethany Jaeger collected feedback from the CAB through meetings and individual conversations throughout the past fiscal year. That feedback is reflected in a draft letter for CAB review and refinement. The letter fulfills the CAB's obligation under the Corporation for Public Broadcasting to advise the station's governing body of whether the station's programming and other significant policies are meeting the specialized educational and cultural needs of the community it serves and to make recommendations, as appropriate, to meet those needs.
16. The CAB offered feedback about the draft letter during the meeting. The feedback will be reflected in a revised letter for CAB review and comment by email.
17. Then the agreed-upon letter will be shared with the Executive Director for the Center for State Policy and Leadership before a final letter will be sent to the UIS Chancellor, University System President and University Board of Trustees.
18. The letter is due by October 1, 2022, per CPB requirements.

NEXT STEPS

19. Bethany will seek email vote affirmations of the following:
 - a. Approval of the eight nominees for CAB terms starting July 1, 2022.
 - b. Approval of Adam Porter as Chair for a one-year term starting July 1, 2022.
 - c. Approval of the revised 2022 CAB Report to the University.
 - d. Affirmation that CAB members approve their name being added to the 2022 CAB Report to the University.
20. Upon approval, the Nominating Committee will inform the new CAB members of their approval and will schedule an orientation before the next CAB meeting.

21. Randy will inform the CAB of plans for NPR Illinois listening sessions this fall.

NEXT MEETING

22. The next meeting is scheduled on **Tuesday, September 6, 2022 from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.** The meeting format is pending about whether it will be convened by Zoom only or by a hybrid of Zoom and in person.

ADJOURN

23. The meeting adjourned at 1:12 p.m.