

Red Red River Radio

Community Advisory Board Meeting

Minutes – July 15, 2026

Attendees

Brad Campbell, John Gayle, Elton Richey, Ranae Moran, Mary Decker, Kermit Poling, Henry Edwards, Jim Clinton, Jeana Paul-Ureña, Ammini Kumar, Troy Jones, Angie White, Garret Johnston, Andrew Burdinsky

Call to Order

Time Called to Order: 12:11 pm

Presiding Officer: John Gayle (Krystle was on vacation)

Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting

Motion: Elton

Second: Angie

Chair's Update – John Gayle sitting in for Krystle Beauchamp

John: Welcome! Board Shout Outs – Notes: Kermit's Birthday! Welcome to Ammini Kumar, our new board member.

Ammini: I have been a listening member since moving here in 2002, and before that a strong supporter in New York.

John: Reflection on how to ask questions from the staff members – it would be more affective to give the staff time to prepare questions for our next meetings and allow the staff time to get information for reports.

Introduces Garrett Johnson the Grants Officer from the Community Foundation. Announcing that RRR has received an award through their competitive grants process for \$65,000 to support the morning news and localized podcasts. They awarded 69 grants totaling 4.1 million dollars to the community last year. This coming from the Travis White fund, a local legacy to invest in our community.

Alexandria Transmitter Updates / Plan – Discussion & Actions: We are still in conversations with the Coughlin Saunders Foundation that will fund the money as we have met our station's financial requirements. The Coughlin Saunders Foundation is working on the logistics of making the payment to Red River Radio.

Manager's Report – Kermit Poling

The Lufkin transmitter was replaced – it is brand new and is now working great. We are installing a backup generator and working on the lease with American Towers for the space where it will be installed. The Elliott family funded the Lufkin transmitter and the backup generator. It is on hand and ready to be installed. The sound quality is excellent. Once our funding for Alexandria is completed, we will purchase the same transmitter for that location.

A Host an Hour of Music will be hosted by Richa Dhawan who will present a show on Bollywood Music, Friday, July 17, 2026 at 7:00 pm

Renaë Moran –

Special shout out to Jim Clinton, Andrew Burdinsky and Leonard Wilson who have helped raise the matching funds for the Alexandria transmitter.

We need a committee for an America 250 speaker series. Mary has suggested a professor from Tyler who would be a good speaker– perhaps we could have 4 or 5 speakers in the Performance Hall. Mary has volunteered to help and recommended several people who would be experts in this area.

Discussion:

John Gayle recommends having the Programming committee take on this.

Ammini suggests making sure the perspective of the immigrant is included. Their point of view would be an excellent focus for part of the speaker series.

Mary suggests Ammini be part of the committee, and thanks Elton for his idea of creating the speaker series.

Angie suggests the Shreveport Bar Association could be involved to recommend speakers and support the series.

Elton suggests reaching out to Curtis Joseph on the Louisiana Bar.

Renaë suggests Elton be on the committee.

John notes the following members can help with the programming committee: Andrew, Ammini, Elton, Mary, Ranae, and Sally.

Ammini notes that there are many people in the Indian community who have been in the US for generations and would be very willing to tell of the America that attracted them to come here and tell their stories.

John offers to write a memorandum of what this committee wants to accomplish with Ranae and get this to the committee.

Kermit says the speaker series could be pre-recorded like podcasts, or recorded live with an interactive audience.

Ranae: We have had positive reception to the program New Southern Garden.

Membership Report - Henry

Henry: Our fund drive was very successful. We had made a goal of \$30,000 and we finished at \$32,000. We have had the best year that we have had in at least ten years, raising \$438,000 in total. Our next fund drive will start early, just before Labor Day, but will not include the Labor Day holiday.

Kermit: These dates will not compete with other activities and will work better than October, when schools have their fall breaks and other activities such as the Red River Revel.

Kermit: Our income last year was up \$100,000 over the years we were getting CPB money. We will be able to re-open the operations position with this level of funding. We need to keep the additional income and grow it. This does not count our foundation account or funds raised for the transmitters. We have not had to use our foundation account during the year. Our foundation accounts are actually very healthy. It has not been touched.

Committee Reports & Action Items

John: Touching base with the Events Committee – The Vino e Violão event was a success, not just in raising funds, but also in bringing people together and raising awareness of Red River Radio and what we are doing. What are the possibilities of doing another event in February?

Angie: The events committee has not met yet, we will schedule an events meeting soon. In addition to this event, I have heard we might discuss a brunch event with a musical component. I have also heard we might talk with Alan

Dyson about hosting a house concert here and bring in musicians from around the region. We could host 60 people and charge tickets. Maybe a spring / summer / fall event. Also, Bonne Summers from Louisiana Haywire has reached out about doing an event together. Could we have a version of the Hayride on campus with musicians performing songs done before on the Hayride. Perhaps the auditorium at LSUS could be a great venue to start. They would want our help with ticketing and sending invoices. In that way we would share in the financial profits.

Kermit: The concept would be similar to Mountain Stage.

Angie: Winston Hall would do a great job at something like this.

Andrew: A concert series would be much easier than launching our own festival.

John Gayle

We mentioned the Red River Revel and I made a list of things last year that would make it even better. We will be broadcasting some from out there this year. Hopefully we will have the same location.

Discussion: We can dress up our space a little better, bring a fan, maybe some old radios – have the broadcast playing, etc. Have people ready to talk about our wide variety of programming, and information about it to hand out.

Adjournment

Motion: Andrew

Second: Brad Campbell

Time Adjourned: 1:04 pm