



Emerging Leaders Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 12, 2025 6:00 PM

Chair

Date

Members present: Nicole Adams, Yu Chen, Monique Gatling-Way, Christina Irizarry Santiago, Lauren Greene, Zoe Hardy-Rappmund, Brion Humphrey, Shanise Harris, Rachel Martin, Sarah McCrea, Serena Murry-Webb, Tameika Serrano, Amanda Shortt, Janae Thompson, Shawana Ward, John Wiley

Staff present: Kelsey Backe, Denise Watson, Connor Worley

Meeting was called to order at 6:00PM

- The meeting was opened the meeting with an ice breaker, inviting the Board to share their favorite date spot.
- Tam shared an update from the ELBOW Governing Board presentation on March 11th.
 - Serena shared it seemed to be well received and provided insight into the governing board process.
 - Discussion was had regarding other Board's meeting schedules (quarterly) – Board to consider transitioning to 4 meetings per year vs monthly. To be discussed further at next meeting.
 - Reminded that Governing Board meetings are open to the public – if interested in attending a future meeting, just let Kelsey know.
- John gave a status update on the next Story Exchange event
 - The next event will be April 17th at The American Theater in Hampton
 - The link to submit stories is open and will run through March 31st - <https://whro.submittable.com/submit/321847/the-story-exchange-april-17th-submissions>
 - Committee to follow up to discuss next steps.
 - Co-chair for the committee is vacant – needs to help facilitate taking notes, arranging meetings, and rallying Board Members to advertise the event. If interested, reach out to John.
 - Board is asked to reach out to organizations again and update spreadsheet: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/199auYqi82j37fQDkFc-4rhKb9TymOcAhRvyiqCWDs3Q/edit?gid=0#gid=0>
 - A hotline has been created for people to leave their stories anonymously - (757) 889-9101
 - June's even will be at Zeiders American Dream Theater.
- Zoe provided an update on Play Your Heart Out
 - The event is confirmed for August 17th at the Chrysler Museum.
 - The committee will be meeting to decide on a date for sound checks and lock in the application to go live.
- Tam introduced the creation of a social committee for the Board:
 - Yu was elected to Chair committee. Additional members include Serena, Monique, Shawana, and Janae.
- Station news and updates were reviewed:
 - Denise Watson encouraged members to reach out about news, events, arts, trends, culture, etc.
 - Connor Worley shared they've been working on a special VA250 piece that will launch July 4th. 2-4 minute pieces weekly focused on the arts, life, culture, etc. of colonial times for a year in celebration.



- Kelsey Backe mentioned that the station is working to get documentaries into public and private places. If the Board knows of a good fit, please reach out!
- Kelsye also shared volunteer opportunities, including:
 - The Great Computer Challenge
 - Pledge Drive
 - Spelling Bee
- The Roku+ app is available for download – all Board members are encouraged to download and test. Login is your Passport login.
- They have launched a new series between morning news and the morning shows called “Can Do” featuring cool things to do in the community (preferably free). Email cando@whro.org with suggestions.
- The members shared personal and professional updates for the group.

Adjournment 7:20 PM - Next Meeting Wednesday, April 9, 2025

Upcoming meetings

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| ● April 9, 2025 | ● September 10, 2025 |
| ● May 14, 2025 | ● October 8, 2025 |
| ● June 11, 2025 | ● November 12, 2025 |
| ● July 9, 2025 TBD | ● December 10, 2025 |
| ● August 13, 2025 TBD | |