Spokane Public Radio
Board of Directors Meeting
March 19, 2026 @ 5:30 pm
SPR Conference Room, 2nd floor

Board Members Present: Elise Azara, Steve Faust, Tony Flinn, David Funk, Sam Jennings, Catherine Kashork, Jess Ponikvar, Sally Winkle.

Others Present: John Decker, Tom Lee

Meeting was called to order at 5:35 pm.

Steve asked for public comment. There was none.

1. **Minutes**. On motion duly made and seconded, minutes of the January 15, 2026 regular meeting of the Board were unanimously approved as submitted.

   There followed a brief discussion of whether board members were having difficulty in accessing the "My Board View" website and in receiving notices sent through the website.

2. **Financial Updates.** A financial report was not available because SPR's contracted service provider (NETA) remains unable to provide one.

   Steve reported that proposals from alternative vendors had been sought and discussed by the Exec Committee in February, after which Steve and Catherine met with several firms and the results of these meetings was further considered by the Exec Committee on March 10. Proposals were received from Eide Bailley, Fruci & Associates, NW CFO, and the Jasmine Group. A handout comparing the pricing and scope of service offered by each vendor was included in the board materials.

   The Executive Committee resolved to hire the Jasmin Group in its March meeting. Steve reported that SPR has advised NETA of its desire to terminate that arrangement and has concluded a contract with Jasmin Group to provide both financial management and HR administration services. NETA remains involved for the purpose of transitioning relevant software and information with the goal of completing the transition by April 15. John noted that Amber Jasmin (finance) and Julie Griffith (HR) are each committed to spend time on-site at SPR, will continue to work with our part-time bookkeeper Jana, and have expressed the desire to train SPR staff and ultimately reduce the Jasmin firm's hours of service.

   Steve and John will work with NETA to settle any financial obligations owed to NETA. SPR has withheld payment of all fees arising under the NETA contract, but there is some amount owed for the services that were actually provided, particularly payroll processing, accounts payable, and HR.

John then reported generally on SPR's financial condition:

a. Corporate development (underwriting) is budgeted at $500,000 and have thus far produced $350,000 in contract value, with about $230,000 billed.

b. Contributions from our members is well in excess of our goal of 1.2 million. Revenue from vehicle donations is also ahead of budget.

c. The record sale brought gross proceeds of $58,000. The fee for early admission to the sale was well received, and there was a good response to asking for donations.

d. On the expense side—NPR has provided some $50,000 worth of lower fees for programming.

John expects to have a preliminary budget by the end of April. The Executive committee will provide some input at its April meeting and the board will review a proposed budget in May. The Executive committee will meet again in June to review and provisionally adopt the FY 2027 budget, subject to review by the full board at our annual meeting in July.

3. **Development Report.** John reported that SPR received a grant of $90,000 over three years from the Johnston Fix Foundation to clean up our member database. John sent a letter of interest to Murdoch Trust for a Development Director, proposal for $200,000. It may take a year or more for action on this grant request. SPR also received two generous gifts to support SPR's local reporting initiative. In addition:

    a. SPR is hosting a David Folkenflik event at the Bing.

    b. The Board will be asked to make Sound Circle gratitude calls in mid-April.

    c. There is an opportunity to bring Shankar Vedantam to Spokane, but it would have to be August at the Fox. There is a required $30,000 guarantee, and SPR may pass unless we can schedule it for after Labor Day.

    d. SPR will sponsor a West Central block party on July 18th at Hamilton studios.

    e. "Coffee and conversation" events in N. Idaho are in the planning stage for May.

    f. We continue to discuss a Jess Walter event.

    g. The spring pledge drive goal will be $200,000.

4. **Operations Report.** John and Jerry with the PME engineers to visit the Mica Peak sites, and we expect they will submit a proposal to provide engineering services post-Jerry. SPR is also looking at a maintenance contract for our HVAC system with volunteer assistance from Doug Dittamore. The system is 10 years old and needs attention. Jess Ponikvar is assisting in evaluating a proposal for IT services.

John also reported on the results of SPR's research on rural reporting, which indicates SPR's news programming is generally in line with what rural listeners want, but also indicates a lack of awareness about SPR's program offerings. SPR is abandoning "rural" as a term to describe a portion of our listeners because there seems to be no rural/urban divide in listening interests; the hierarchy of needs isn't different throughout the region. Communities want us to have more local news, which we already have. But we always need more reporting. Sam observed that the survey showed we have a lot of millennials out there who listen; John sees the opportunity for there for us.

Board members then asked whether SPR had data on the degree to which the survey respondents listen to SPR Classical or SPR Jazz. This was not in the scope of the survey. There was some discussion whether SPR should rebrand its stations individually, and not just as "Spokane Public Radio."

5. **Form 990.** After discussion, on motion duly made and seconded, the Board approved the draft 990 tax return for FY 2025 submitted by Eide Bailley.

6. **Executive session**. On motion duly made and seconded, the Board resolved to move into executive session at 6:30 pm.

After returning to regular session, on motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Tony Flinn, Secretary