



Emerging Leaders Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 14, 2025 6:00 PM

Chair

Date

Members present: Nicole Adams, Yu Chen, Monique Gatling-Way, Lauren Greene, Shanise Harris, Brion Humphrey (virtual), Drew Lusher (virtual), Rachel Martin, Sarah McCrea (virtual), Tameika Serrano, Amanda Shortt, Shawana Ward (virtual), John Wiley

Staff present: Kelsey Backe, Kenny Hopkins, Ryan Murphy, James Roach

Meeting was called to order at 6:05PM

- Tam opened the meeting with an ice breaker, what tv show are you watching right now?
- Tam discussed the changing Board Meeting structure and introduced new committees to the Board:
 - Event Committees:
 - The Story Exchange Committee
 - Chair: John
 - Currently three events annually. Planning, developing theme, reviewing submissions, working with the station to determine location and logistics.
 - Play Your Heart Out Committee
 - Chair: Zoe & Brion
 - Annual event. Planning, marketing, reviewing submissions, working with the station to determine location and logistics, run of show.
 - NEW: Handmade Good Event Committee
 - Chair: Tam
 - TBD
 - Social Committee
 - Chair: Yu
 - Ensuring member engagement outside of the Board meetings. Planning social, professional, and volunteer events for Board members.
 - NEW: Professional Development Committee
 - Chair: Monique
 - Developing members of the Board professionally, allowing them to share their strengths, brainstorming events, and strengthening the relationship with WHRO.
 - REVISED: Membership Committee
 - Chair: Lauren
 - Recruiting members, managing expectations of Board participation, ensuring Board engagement. Host member recruitment and interest event. Updating application. Invite colleagues that might be a good fit for the Board.
 - Committees will be expected to continue meeting on a regular basis and to post meeting dates, times, and minutes to the shared Google Sheet. Please also cc Kelsey on meetings and communications.



- Chairs will report to the Board at each meeting.
- Tam will meet with Chairs on a regular basis to ensure communication, support, and that things remain on track.
- Upcoming Events
 - John provided a brief April Story Exchange recap:
 - It was successful and well attended!
 - The American Theater would like to find ways to work together again.
 - John gave an update on the June Story Exchange event:
 - 6-7 submissions received to date. Submissions end May 31st.
 - Members were reminded to reach out to at least 3 organizations.
 - June 12th at Zeiders American Dream Theater in Virginia Beach
 - Brion shared an update on Play Your Heart Out
 - 3-4 submissions to date. Currently scheduled to end June 1st, but may be extended. Kelsey to schedule a follow up with Brion and Zoe to discuss.
 - The committee will be selecting a date to review submissions and will send to the group if interested.
 - Tam suggested waiting until the next Board meeting to discuss the Handmade Goods event.
- Yu gave an update on the Social Committee
 - The first meetup will be before the June 12th Story Exchange at 5:30PM at Nando's. Details to follow.
 - Second meetup will be drinks at Elation Brewing after the July Board Meeting.
 - The committee is Identifying a volunteer opportunity in September.
 - Updates will go out through the WhatsApp group message. Please feel free to share your own events, meetups, etc. there as well!
- WHRO Station Updates
 - Kelsey encouraged Board Members to watch Another View featuring station leadership for an overview of funding and what is happening at the station at the moment. To support WHRO and public media visit: ProtectMyPublicMedia.com
 - A new reporter was hired with the intention to continue hiring to build news team.
 - The Community Advisory Board will be putting on an event with the newsroom to discuss editorial ethics.
 - The Civic Leadership Institute will be giving WHRO an award in the fall.
 - Ryan Murphy provided an update on the newsroom and the focus on big, regional stories.
 - Kenny Hopkins gave an overview of digital content creation at the station, discussing the artists featured and documentaries focused on.
 - Both encouraged reaching out with tips, artists, or thoughts.
- The members shared personal and professional updates for the group.

Adjournment 7:10 PM - Next Meeting Wednesday, July 9, 2025

Upcoming meetings

- July 9, 2025
- September 10, 2025
- December 10, 2025