Spokane Public Radio
Board of Directors Meeting
May 21, 2026 @ 5:30 pm
SPR Conference Room, 2nd floor

Board Members Present: Ira Amstadter, Elise Azara, Heather Beebe-Stevens, Steve Faust, Tony Flinn, Dan Fratini, Sam Jennings, Sally Winkle, Jess Ponikvar, Rick Shaffer

Others Present: John Decker, Amber Jasmin, Julie Griffith

Meeting was called to order at 5:34 pm.

Steve asked for public comment. There was none.

Minutes. On motion duly made and seconded, minutes of the March 19, 2026 regular meeting of the Board were unanimously approved as submitted.

Financial Report: A financial report was provided in the board packet, consisting of statement of financial position as of April 30, 2026, a statement of actual income & expense against budget from July 2025 through April 2026, and a statement of cash flows for the same period. A report with minor updates was provided at the meeting.

Amber Jasmin, acting as SPR's chief financial officer via contract with the Jasmin Group, advised that while the report reflected all transactions conducted by SPR during the fiscal year to date there were some transactions conducted during the engagement with NETA that were not yet fully reconciled, and that some of SPR's fiscal items are only reconciled at the end of each fiscal year. Discussion followed on whether this policy of annual reconciliation for certain items should be revised. No action was taken.

John then offered some comments on the statement of income & expense, noting that SPR's actual performance was very close to what was budgeted for FY 2026. On corporate support, our underwriting team reports collected income of about $270,000 and the discrepancy in reporting may be due to a coding error. Amber will be meeting with Brandon and Beth to resolve this. At Amber's recommendation, the entry for direct fund raising costs (#800) includes an entry for the donations recently collected by SPR and then donated by it to local food banks during the last pledge drive.

Brief discussion followed regarding adjustments made to the entries for fixed assets and for expenses reimbursable to SPR by the WA Dept. of Commerce under its grant agreement with SPR. John added that the term of the DOC grant expires at the end of June and that SPR will need to submit a reimbursement request before the grant contract expires.

The board then discussed the status of a certificate of deposit for about $10,000, which was expiring soon. On motion made and seconded, the Board resolved to move the CD funds into SPR's savings account with STCU.

Steve noted that the cash flow statement showed significant improvement to SPR's financial position over the course of the year, due in part to dramatic increases in member support, and congratulated John and SPR's staff for effectively managing expenses despite the absence of much financial guidance during SPR's engagement with NETA.

Amber noted that the liability for accrued and unused vacation time was significant, and that SPR should encourage staff to make use of this time.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Board accepted the financial report.

Operations/Development Report: John thanked the BOD for its support during the "rocky" time with NETA, and for board members attending the Sound Circle event the previous night. John briefly recapped a few of the achievements he had reported at the Sound Circle event: 33% more local news over the past year and 40% more air time for news content, with special thanks to the news staff. SPR also had the best fundraising year in its history, with a 50% increase in the number of sustainers and 27% increase in membership, and 650 SPR tote bags distributed.

Sally expressed that these kinds of events are great for community-building and SPR should do them more often. It was suggested that for future such evenings that we add chairs for those who have difficulty standing, and that we begin a tradition of annual state of the station meetings with membership. John agreed, and noted these events can be tailored to reach different audiences among our listeners. John asked that board members report back on the conversations we had with the Sound Circle attendees.

SPR is planning several upcoming events including booths at various farmers markets, at the North Idaho Pride on June 6th, and the Spokane Pride on June 15th. A vendor at Spokane Pride will be offering SPR-branded tote bags and will donate about 1/3 of the proceeds to SPR. SPR is also a sponsor of the West Central block party (Rock the Block) on July 18 and will host a music preview night concert at the station, date yet to be determined. These performances will be recorded but not necessarily broadcast.

SPR is also running promotional spots for the Garrison Keillor event and we are offering two tickets to the event and a night at the Indigo for a $300 donation.

On corporate support, John believes SPR will finish this year at about the same as last year. Thanks to Brendan's efforts, the collection of amounts due from our underwriters is much higher than last year. John is very pleased with Brendan's work.

SPR's smart-phone app launch is planned for this summer: it will leapfrog the website and should draw younger audiences with live streams and podcasts. It will be free on several app stores (e.g., Apple), and listeners will be able to pledge through the app. Also, SPR can send text "push" messages (pledge encouragement, emergency announcements). Expenses for development and hosting of the app will run about $6,000 per year. Eventually it will have single sign on, so we'll be able to get data on listeners' listening habits.

In that context, John mentioned a third-party report that 50% of today's internet content is produced by AI, and only 50% comes from people. Discussion followed about AI and its

potential impact. From SPR's perspective, providing real voices and a clean, non-commercial listening experience are more important than ever

On the hiring side, SPR has just hired Aaron Weer to replace Aaron Bratt as production assistant, and has posted the membership director position; it's almost a development director position that ideally could engage in strategic planning. The salary range is $65,000 to $75,000. Our contracted HR resource, Julie Griffith at Jasmin Group, is also interviewing for a contractor to improve our database.

Document retention and destruction policy: Steve introduced a revised policy based on recommendations of Julie Griffith of the Jasmin Group. The changes are to shorten some retention perods where they were longer than required by state law, and to strengthen the provision on retention of general correspondence to include all e-mail and to require deletion of any records (e-mail or otherwise) that are older than two years and for which no longer period of retention is required by the policy (such as tax records, or contracts, each of which are to be kept for longer periods of time).

Steve suggested that we adopt this policy as presented but, given SPR's historic practice of retaining virtually all records for indefinite periods, that the board also allow for a one-year grace period during which, with support from Julie, John would gradually implement the changes in document retention with staff. Discussion followed on the difficulties inherent in changing staff habits on document retention and the benefits of having a such a policy. Sam observed that the policy does not address news reports or sources. The BOD voted to table the issue and allow for further discussion at the management level.

Executive session. On motion duly made and seconded, the Board resolved to move to executive session at 6:38 pm.

Adjournment: The Board returned to general session and the meeting was adjourned at 6:53 pm

Tony Flinn, Secretary