

# **MINUTES OF THE WLRN COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD (CAB) MEETING Thursday, September 7, 2023**

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by CAB Chair Diana Zamora at 12:02 PM.

## **CAB MEMBERS, WLRN STAFF AND GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Lauren Gomez, David Hirsch, Adrienne Kennedy, John LaBonia Marcela Moyano, Dinkinish O'Connor, Sheila Reinken, Andrew Ruiz, Kearey Wan, Diana Zamora. Guests: Michael Anderson, Jessica Bakeman, Sergio Bustos, Monica Cruz, Tom Hudson, Peter Maerz, Caitie Munoz, James March, Charles Michaels, Sarah Smith, Ellen Soto, Jenny Staletovich, and Natu Tweh.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes for the September 7, meeting. Members present accepted and approved the minutes as published.

## **APPROVAL OF FY 2023 ANNUAL PROGRAMMING REPORT**

The FY 2023 Annual Programming Report was approved and unanimously accepted. The report will be presented to the Superintendent, School Board Members, Friends of WLRN, Inc. Board and posted to the WLRN website.

## **NEWSROOM/RADIO STAFF HIGHLIGHTS & NEW ROLE OF SENIOR ECONOMICS EDITOR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**

Sergio Bustos, VP of News, welcomed Tom Hudson, WLRN's Senior Economics Editor and Special Correspondent. Tom Hudson provided a presentation to the board, which reinforced that economics coverage is vitally important here in South Florida, and for this community, there is a thirst for it. South Florida is the 12<sup>th</sup> largest metro economy in the nation with trade, tourism, construction, and real estate. It is an area that has historically low unemployment rates, historically and persistent high inflation, and enduring affordability crises, the time is right for impactful economic coverage. Hudson is rebooting the Florida Roundup. This statewide program is produced by WLRN. Statewide NPR stations partner with WLRN by contributing journalists as well as audiences who engage and listen to the program across Florida. The Florida Roundup will maintain and reinforce a place for civil conversation and cover a variety of topics the matter in the lives of Floridians.

Sergio Bustos introduced Sarah Smith, the new senior editor who as joined the newsroom. Sarah Smith oversees WLRN's news features with report coverage on healthcare, Broward County, Florida Keys, the Americas and immigrant communities.

Peter Maerz, VP of Radio, introduced Natu Tweh's new role as Morning Edition Host and Reporter. Following Joe Johnson's departure after 7 years of successfully hosting WLRN's morning drivetime schedule, Peter shared that the station decided to develop a new position that many major market public radio stations have done over the years. In this new position, Natu Tweh's responsibilities not only include the duties as a traditional continuity host, making transitions between network and local programming, but also acts in a journalistic capacity by producing and presenting his own stories during time he is on the air.

## **NATIONAL EDWARD R. MURROW AWARD: IT TAKES A PYTHON TO FIND A PYTHON**

Sergio Bustos announced that WLRN was recognized nationally once again by the Radio Television Digital News Association (RTDNA) for its outstanding journalism. The National Edward R. Murrow Award went to environmental reporter Jenny Staletovich for Excellence in Writing for her story [It Takes a Python to](#)

[Find a Python.](#) This is WLRN's third consecutive National Murrow Award in the radio/large market category.

Jenny Staletovich shared her story behind the story with the board. When she had learned that the heaviest Burmese python on record had been caught in Florida by using a pheromone hunting male python with a tracker, she had to tell the story. Jenny had been covering the python population story for a long time and thought this strategy was worthy of a story.

#### **RECRUITMENT OF NEW CAB MEMBERS**

John Labonia asked board members to help recruit eligible contenders for the Community Advisory Board and have them contact Adrienne Kennedy. John added that Dr. Martin Karp, former School Board Member and appointed to the Community Advisory Board, will be happy to rejoin the Community Advisory Board as a citizen in November 2023.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Michael Anderson shared the WLRN TV Production Internship Syllabus for interning high school students. In addition, WLRN will invest funds each participating student to ensure that online training is also part of the year-long production training.

**NEXT CAB MEETING:** Thursday, November 2, 2023 @ Noon

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 12:40 PM.