
Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes
December 18, 2025

The Iowa Public Radio, Inc. Board of Directors met on December 18, 2025, at the Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines, 1910 Ingersoll Avenue in Des Moines. Present for the meeting were Chair Libby Jacobs and Directors Susan Brennan, Ken Brown, Alejandro Hernandez, Katie Roth, Grant Veeder, Ardis Kelley, Kaye Lozier, Renee Schaaf, Helen Miller, Greg Schnirring, Chuck Swanson, Andrea Welchans, David Yepsen and Nora Everett. Directors Chris Martin, Mark Nolte, Brian Waller and Mary Rayburn were absent. Present at the meeting site from Iowa Public Radio were Myrna Johnson, Lynn Jones-Folsom, Andrea Hansen, Jason Burns and Jordan Bahnsen. Joining virtually for IPR were Katherine Perkins, Keaton Scovel-Willett and Matt Sieren.

Chair Jacobs called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Roll call was taken.

Susan Brennan – virtual from Iowa City
Katie Roth – present at meeting site
Alejandro Hernandez – present at meeting site
Ardis Kelley – virtual from Urbandale
Renee Schaaf – present at meeting site
Greg Schnirring – virtual from Sac City
Andrea Welchans – present at meeting site
Nora Everett – present at meeting site
Mark Nolte – not present
Brian Waller – not present

Ken Brown – virtual from Iowa City
Grant Veeder – present at meeting site
Libby Jacobs – present at meeting site
Kaye Lozier – present at meeting site
Helen Miller – present at meeting site
Chuck Swanson – virtual from Coralville
David Yepsen – present at meeting site
Chris Martin – not present
Mary Rayburn – not present

Helen Miller joined the meeting at 1:22 p.m.

Agenda

Chair Jacobs asked if there were any changes to the agenda. As there were no changes, Chair Jacobs noted the agenda stands as approved.

Minutes

Chair Jacobs asked if there were any changes to the October 23, 2025, minutes. As there were no changes, Chair Jacobs noted the minutes approved as distributed.

Chairman's Report

Chair Jacobs welcomed new board members Katie Roth, Grant Veeder and Renee Schaaf and asked each to introduce themselves to the Board. Returning board members and IPR staff introduced themselves.

Executive Director Report

Executive Director Johnson recognized two IPR staff who will be retiring from IPR on December 31, 2025. Jim Davies, Radio Broadcast Engineer based in Iowa City, has been with IPR for over 20 years. Mark Simmet, Senior Music Producer and Host for Studio One, has been with IPR for 38 years.

IPR is a finalist for a Report for America grant. This grant would be used to fund the Eastern Iowa Reporter position in the Cedar Falls/Waterloo area. If selected, Report for America pays 50% in the first year, then declining percentages each subsequent year.

Katherine Perkins reviewed program changes that will take place starting in January 2026. Programming on the weekends will be modified to offer more variety, including the addition of Sports in America and the Sam Sanders Show and adjustments to other programming currently offered. All programming changes are highlighted in the Connections member newsletter, and we have asked listeners to provide their feedback on new programming offerings and changes.

Myrna Johnson shared that fundraising has been strong this year and thanked the Development team for their work.

Johnson shared an audience dashboard, which summarizes more in-depth data for both the Des Moines and statewide markets for fall 2025. Matt Sieren noted that digital traffic has increased and includes traffic from across the country. Podcast traffic has also increased. Streaming is consistent and video is growing.

Old Business

Chair Jacobs indicated there was no old business.

Finance Committee Report

Director Schnirring provided a report on the Finance Committee's December 4 meeting. The agenda included a quarterly investment review, review of the Oct. 31 financials and an annual insurance report. Auditors from UHY provided and reported on the FY2025 audit, the result of which was a clean and unqualified opinion. UHY did not identify any significant misstatements, disagreements with management, or significant difficulties during the audit and there were no changes in accounting policy, no consultations with outside accountants, and no significant issues requiring further consultation.

The committee recommended approval of the audit by the full board.

Financial Report

Lynn Jones-Folsom provided a review of the October 31, 2025 financials. Chair Jacobs asked whether there were further comments regarding the FY25 audited financial statements. As there were none, Chair Jacobs moved to approve the audit report and associated financial statements. All board members were in favor and the motion was approved. Chair Jacobs requested further discussion regarding the October 31, 2025, financial statements. As there were none, Chair Jacobs moved to approve the financial statements. All board members were in favor and the motion was approved.

Development Committee Report

Development Committee Chair Lozier provided an update on fundraising through November. Memberships and Major Giving continue to exceed goals and Underwriting, while slightly under budget, has improved its position. The Moth event will be in Iowa City on February 26. Lozier shared that Development Committee members have been working on thank you notes for major gifts donors.

Governance Committee Report

Governance Committee Chair Brown shared that the Governance Committee reviewed the process used to find new board members. The committee is thinking forward to the next recruitment process. Brown shared that the Finance, Development, and Governance committee charters were reviewed and are recommended for approval. Chair Jacobs asked whether there was further discussion regarding the committee charters. As there were none, Chair Jacobs moved to approve the committee charters. All board members were in favor and the motion was approved.

New Business

No new business.

Adjourn

Chair Jacobs asked for a motion to adjourn to a closed session. Director Everett moved and Director Lozier seconded and the motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 1:58 p.m.