

COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

June 10th, 2025

Attendees:

James Deppe, Rowena Finn, Denise Fisher, DoVeanna Fulton, Marcella Germanotta, Tom Isenhour, Drew Lopenzino, Felicia Mebane, Deborah Meyers, Chris O'Brien, Linda Pulley, Season Roberts, Paulette Shaw Temple, Peg Snowden Volk, Margie Wiley, Hoda Zaki.

Staff Present:

Kelsey Backe, Barbara Hamm Lee, Maurice Jones

Volunteer:

Rich Hoehlein

Meeting Called to Order

Season called the meeting to order at **6:03 PM**. Kelsey introduced WHRO staff guests **Barbara Hamm Lee** and **Maurice Jones**

Ice Breaker

Rowena led a brief ice breaker, asking members to share what they are reading this summer.

Approval of Previous Minutes

Two minor corrections were made to the March 2025 meeting minutes. The minutes were then approved as amended.

WHRO Federal Funding Update

Kelsey provided an update on the status of WHRO's federal funding. She directed members to the **WHRO Champions webpage** and encouraged them to use the talking points provided by Bert in recent emails. She also thanked the many CAB members who have already contacted their representatives.

News Event Committee Update

Rowena provided an overview of the newly formed **News Event Committee** and asked members to share venue suggestions with Kelsey.

The event will be an informal, interactive panel hosted by **Maurice Jones**, focused on the importance of local journalism and building trust with the community. The event is planned for October and will serve as a space to:

- Showcase WHRO's commitment to transparent, trustworthy journalism
- Humanize WHRO reporters as neighbors and members of the community
- Explain how a story moves from tip to publication
- Provide an opportunity for the public to engage directly with WHRO's newsroom staff

Denise suggested incorporating an interactive activity, such as a poster or display asking attendees questions like, "*Where do you get your news?*" or "*What makes you trust a news source?*"

CAB Committee Participation

Season reminded members that all CAB members are encouraged to join at least one committee.

WHRO Updates

- **Another View:** Barbara Hamm Lee shared the history and impact of her radio program *Another View*, followed by Q&A from the CAB.
- **Newsroom Growth:** Maurice Jones provided an update on WHRO's newsroom expansion and staffing efforts before having to step out.
- **Data Reporting:** Kelsey introduced WHRO's new data reporter and shared his first article to help CAB members understand his role in producing community-focused journalism.
- **Virginia Humanities at WHRO Grant:**
 - The inaugural grant cycle is complete; 11 nonprofit organizations were selected as awardees from 35 applicants.
 - The Advisory Board that reviewed applications was composed of community leaders, not WHRO or Virginia Humanities staff or board members.
 - A celebratory event will be held at WHRO on **July 24, 2025** to honor the grant recipients, an invitation will follow.
 - Kelsey thanked the CAB for their outreach efforts and gave special recognition to volunteer **Rich H.** for his support.
- **WHRO+ App:** Kelsey provided a live demonstration of the new **WHRO+** app, now available on **Roku** and **Apple TV**.
- **Curate Update:** Kelsey shared an update on *Curate*, WHRO's local arts series.

Recognition of CAB Volunteers

Kelsey recognized specific CAB members who have recently volunteered at WHRO events.

Upcoming Events

- **Another View Live Broadcast** – Juneteenth (June 19)
Join us at WHRO for food trucks and a live celebration of *Another View*.
- **The Story Exchange** – Final Evening (June 12)
- **Play Your Heart Out** – Music Event (August 2025)

Next Meetings & Social

- 2025–2026 CAB meeting dates have been set; Kelsey will distribute Outlook calendar invitations.
- A CAB social event is planned for August at **Fort Monroe in Hampton**—details to come.

Member Updates & Adjournment

CAB members shared professional updates and announcements.

The meeting adjourned at **7:24 PM**.