

Friends of Yellowstone Public Radio

Board Meeting

KEMC Studios, Billings, MT 59101/Conference Call

October 27, 2020

Board Members in attendance:

JoAnn Eder
Susan Foster
Malcolm Goodrich
Tami Haaland
Doxey Hatch
Chuck Hingle
Terri Kaercher
Scott Mitchell
Anita Pagliaro
Amber Parish
Horatio Potter
Barbara Sample
Barb Shafer
Curt Starr
Ashley Warren

Ex-Officio Members in attendance:

Ken Siebert
Chancellor Rolf Groseth

Staff in attendance:

Jen Cleland
Jaime Granzella

Absent:

Jill Hirschi
Mary McNally

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm.

Secretary's Report

Upon motion and seconded it was unanimously **RESOLVED** that the Board approves the July 28, 2020 meeting minutes.

Finance Committee

The committee met yesterday and had a good meeting. As of October 23, the First Interstate Account balances are:

Checking: \$207,574.61

Savings: \$120,010.27

Ms. Granzella also provided information on some of the grants we have, and the campus account.

Community Service Grant: \$3,478.99

2020 Grant: \$37,130.85

CPB Grant: \$14,967.19

Main Campus Account: \$46,666.57

Additionally, \$165,000 from the First Interstate checking account needs to be transferred to the main campus account in the next couple of weeks. However, the checking account is replenished as pledges are received.

As of September 30, 2020, the US Bank account balances are as follows:

Directed Account: \$304,376.98

Board Endowment Account: \$1,362,482.77

Mr. Goodrich noted that while this is an account with a total that fluctuates, the balance noted is as of the end of the September. The net change from July was roughly \$17,000. Over the last year, the account had a little over \$330,000 so the amount is a little bit lower.

The board endowment account was about \$35,000 higher at the beginning of September, but a year ago the total was at \$1.2M. In July, the total was \$1,294,129. From July to the end of September, the account increased by \$68,365.

Ms. Foster asked about the account increase. Mr. Goodrich explained the increase can be attributed to dividends, interest, and investment accrual. For further information, Mr. Goodrich referred Ms. Foster to a report supplied by Ms. Granzella.

The committee also reviewed the budgets, though Mr. Goodrich deferred to Mr. Seibert for the budget report.

University Update

Interim Chancellor Rolf Groseth began by thanking board members for their service. He provided a brief introduction. Mr. Groseth was chancellor at MSUB from 2010-2014 when he retired. When Chancellor Edelman had to resign for health reasons, Chancellor Groseth offered his assistance to Dr. Cruzado, who asked that he serve as the Interim Chancellor. He'll serve in the position until the second week of January, when he'll be replaced by the new Chancellor, Stefani Hicswa, the current President of Northwest College, in Powell, WY. January 11, 2021 will be her start date.

The fall semester commencement has been adapted to be an online, pre-recorded occasion. Multiple semesters worth of students will be honored during the November 21, 2020 graduation ceremony.

The University has formed a COVID Incident Command and Staff group which manages all issues related to the pandemic. So far, the Chancellor said, the University has been extremely lucky. Currently, only one student is in isolation and approximately a half dozen are in quarantine. The faculty have done a wonderful job of combining face-to-face work with online activity. The semester will end right before Thanksgiving, followed by a long break, with the spring semester resuming January 13, 2021. There are COVID townhall meetings every Thursday that are available via the MSUB website.

Station Update

Mr. Seibert introduced the new station intern Kaya Neimeyer from the music/business program. Given her educational focus, she's been getting to know the station a little more holistically than past communications interns, who worked mainly with the news team.

Fall Fundraiser

The fall fundraiser was different than past fundraisers, primarily due to COVID planning. Accommodations were made to allow participants to socially distance themselves. The fundraiser was interrupted by the Senate committee hearings which took two days. Fundraising leading into the week was good and the biggest fundraising day, and the biggest fundraising in a single day, was Thursday, which saw \$85,000 raised. Mr. Seibert also thanked the board for the board match of approximately \$5,200. Matches were deployed strategically throughout the week and when the fundraiser went off the air, the week finished with \$261,000 raised. With only a few more days the total funds raised increased to \$300,000. Mr. Seibert also commented that there were several new major donors.

This was also the first fund drive using Member Services Bureau Contributor Development Platform (CDP), the new fundraising platform. A few situations were identified that will need to be followed up on with the platform provider. The CDP platform uses two different vendors for processing online donations, one vendor for those donors that wanted a thank you gift and one vendor for those donors who did not. Additionally, not all online donors got a thank you on the air because the check box requesting a thank you was not available on the online form. It is hoped that these issues will be streamlined for the spring fundraiser.

It was also noted that shifting the timing of the fundraiser to October negatively affected the cashflow but not to the extent that it created any issues. Overall, the fundraiser was considered a success.

Election Coverage

On election day, NPR will suspend 'All Things Considered' and election coverage will begin at 5pm MST. Coverage will wrap up between midnight and 2am MST. Member stations will be given three-minute opportunities three times an hour to break in with local election results. Reporting will come from Yellowstone Public Radio and Montana Public Radio. This will be the most robust election coverage from the local side in many years. If it becomes necessary, NPR will also have election specials in the days following, and the station will take breaking coverage for whatever may transpire.

Development Committee

At a meeting a few months ago, a list of sustaining members was divided and sent to Board Members for the purpose of calling and thanking members for their support. We received great feedback and were able to collect information to update our files. Moving forward, a committee meeting will be scheduled next month.

We had a great major giving turnout. By last count we had approximately 23 donations of over \$1,000 and a few that were five figure gifts, which is remarkable for a station of our size. Ms. Cleland also mentioned that she is currently enrolled in a Veritas major giving course that will help the station develop a long-term major giving strategy moving forward.

Old Business

Ms. Foster asked about progress on the officers' liability insurance and revisions to the Board policy documents. Ms. Eder recommended that a subcommittee meeting is needed to discuss the officers' insurance. Ms. Eder also has the Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality Policies that need to be reviewed. Ms. Sample and Ms. Eder will schedule a meeting to discuss.

Ms. Foster asked for an update about the lawsuit. Mr. Seibert indicated that YPR was removed from the lawsuit. Once the lawsuit came down in favor of the media companies, Kelly Petersen, MSU's counsel, worked to make sure that all relevant documentation was given to the newsroom.

New Business

None

Meeting Adjourned 5:38pm