MINUTES
of the
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Friday, December 10, 2023
via Zoom

Present: John McLaughlin, Karmen Bryant, Jeremy Steele, Liz Lambert, Mike Pacheco, Shane O'Neal, Jennifer Ferro, Jeff Pope, Christian Patry and Dick DeGuiren

Absent: None

Staff: Elise Pepple, Travis Pope, Yvonne Lujan, Carlos Morales, Travis Bubenik, Kelly Schaber, Zoe Kurland, Annie Rosenthal, Mitch Borden, Julie Bernal

Guests: Stephanie Kuo and Mike Russo

1. New Board Member and Presentation to Board

John calls meeting to order at 10:05.

Elise and board welcome Dick to the meeting. Elise would also like to introduce Kelly Development Director to our meeting. Elise explains the meeting will primarily focus on content with her and Zoe sharing experiences at the station followed by a really exciting presentation by PRX. Meeting will then finish with fundraising and plans for the future of the station.

Elise gives an overview of things that have come to fruition to date this year and reflects on all that has happened during her tenure at the station. Elise also shares the aim of Marfa Public Radio is to continue to provide ways to stay relevant in public media. All of that work is coming to fruition because of talent so this meeting is kind of like a talent show.

Zoe shares her story from her first time at the station to the completion of the podcasts that have been produced and are airing. Zoe shares with the board the ways we have reached the community with our podcasts and the feedback she has received. Zoe would like to continue with community involvement and looks forward to projects of the future.
10:17 Transitioned back to Elise and discussion of the privilege she has of sitting in on national board meetings and talking to stations across the country and this board has so much to be proud of for the time and dedication to Marfa Public Radio.

Elise introduces Stephanie Kuo and Mike Russo from PRX and discusses the investment made to work with PRX. What was decided given the capacity of the station, everyone is essential, and we wanted to work with PRX. With their expertise and their sense of relevance and this is why we have launched three podcasts.

10:21 presentation begins by PRX.

11:09 presentation by PRX complete. Stephanie opens the floor for questions from the board. Questions from Christian and Jeff about ideas we can implement in the immediate term. Discussion ends and Christian thanks PRX again for their presentation.

2. Minutes and Financials

Move to minutes at 11:25. Christian states motion needed for minutes. Motion from Dick to approve minutes with second from Jeremy. Motion is unanimous at 11:26.

Move to Financials at 11:26. Jeremy starts with the financial documents and presents the statement of financial position and 2023 forecast summary. As of the close of Q3 2023 MPR is in a very good position. Plenty of liquidity to cover the necessary debt obligations when compared to the same time in 2022. Areas for savings are highlighted even if other areas are down at this time. Elise informs the board that revenue opportunities continue to be present and strengthened with the addition of the Development Director. Looking at revenues for the future is an ongoing discussion with management. Christian asked questions of the 2024 budget with follow up questions from Jen. Kelly presents engagement opportunities and initiatives which are in progress. Travis also shares other avenues which we are using to share contact and have the possibility of having people become members.

Motion to approve financials at 12:09 made by Christian and seconded by Shane. Motion unanimous.

Board moves to executive session at 10:49