
**Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes
March 27, 2025**

The Iowa Public Radio, Inc. Board of Directors met on March 27, 2025 at Community Colleges for Iowa, 855 East Court Avenue, Des Moines, IA. Present for the meeting were Chair Nora Everett and Directors Susan Brennan, Ken Brown, Lijun Chadima, Alejandro Hernandez, Libby Jacobs, Ardis Kelley, Kaye Lozier, Warren Madden, Chris Martin, Helen Miller, Mark Nolte, Mary Rayburn, Greg Schnirring, Chuck Swanson, Andrea Welchans and David Yepsen. Director Brian Waller was absent. Present from Iowa Public Radio were Myrna Johnson, Kelly Edmister, Al Schares, Andrea Hansen, Jason Burns, Jordan Bahnsen, Katherine Perkins, Keaton Scovel-Willett and Matt Sieren. Also present was Lynn Jones-Folsom.

Chair Everett called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. Roll call was taken.

Susan Brennan – virtual from Iowa City
Lijun Chadima – virtual from Cedar Rapids
Alejandro Hernandez – present at meeting site
Ardis Kelley – virtual from West Des Moines
Warren Madden – present at meeting site
Helen Miller – present at meeting site
Greg Schnirring – present at meeting site
Andrea Welchans – present at meeting site

Ken Brown – virtual from Iowa City
Nora Everett – present at meeting site
Libby Jacobs – present at meeting site
Kaye Lozier – present at meeting site
Chris Martin – virtual from Cedar Falls
Mary Rayburn – virtual from Chicago
Chuck Swanson – virtual from Muscatine
David Yepsen – present at meeting site

Executive Director Johnson welcomed Lynn Jones-Folsom who starts on April 1 as the Director of Finance & Operations. Chair Everett asked Board members and staff to introduce themselves.

Agenda

Chair Everett asked if there were any changes to the agenda. As there were none, Chair Everett moved to approve the agenda and Director Jacobs seconded. Motion approved.

Minutes

Chair Everett asked if there were any changes to the December 19, 2024 minutes. As there were none, Chair Everett moved to approve the minutes and Director Madden seconded. Motion approved.

Chairman's Report

Chair Everett encouraged Board members, in light of the current climate in public media, to help IPR by serving as ambassadors and focusing on connecting IPR leadership with donors and members of the community.

Old Business

Chair Everett indicated there was no old business.

Executive Director Report

Executive Director Johnson announced this was the last Board meeting for Al Schares as he is retiring on May 30.

Johnson provided insight on the DOGE subcommittee hearing involving NPR and PBS leaders. Johnson discussed on-going advocacy efforts including preparing for a “road show” and asking Board members to provide organizations in their network and communities that would be of interest. Johnson highlighted the current marketing campaign using billboards, advertising at the Des Moines International Airport and social media. Johnson responded to questions from the Board.

Director Nolte joined the meeting at 1:40 p.m.

Johnson provided highlights from the department reports including awards won by the content teams, the merger of the Digital and Music teams under Matt Sieren and successful fundraising in membership and major gifts.

Facilities Overview

Johnson provided an overview of the IPR facilities including the locations and number of employees at each. Johnson reviewed the principles that will guide creation of a 10-year space plan and provided an update on the current status of lease negotiations with each of the universities.

Finance Report – February 28, 2025 Financials

Director of Finance Edmister reviewed the February 28, 2025 financial report and addressed questions from the Board. Chair Everett asked for a motion to accept the February 28, 2025 financial report. Director Schnirring moved and Director Lozier seconded to accept the financial report. Motion approved.

Development Committee Report

Development Committee Chair Lozier provided a report on the Committee’s March 13 meeting which included a review of the development dashboard, an update on work with the Veritus Group and the addition of a Major Gifts position and an update on events. The Committee also discussed their role as ambassadors for IPR.

Executive Committee Report

Executive Committee Chair Everett provided a report on the Committee’s March 13 meeting which included a discussion on board member engagement, an update on CPB funding and a discussion in closed session regarding a lease update.

Finance Committee Report

Finance Committee Chair Schnirring provided a report on the Committee's March 13 meeting which included an investment review by representatives from Morgan Stanley, an update on CPB funding and a review of the January 31, 2025 financial report. The Committee reviewed proposed changes to the signature authority and made additional changes before approving for recommendation to the Board for approval. The Committee received updates on the Audit Services RFP process and records management.

Signature Authority

Edmister reviewed the history of the signature authority and outlined the proposed changes. Chair Everett requested a motion to approve the signature authority as presented and recommended by the Finance Committee. Director Madden moved and Director Hernandez seconded approval of the signature authority. Motion approved with Director Brown abstaining.

Governance Committee Report

Governance Committee Chair Jacobs provided a report on the Committee's March 13 meeting which included discussing board member terms and recruitment, reviewing a draft committee charter and the proposed plan for completing and approving committee charters and workplans.

Sounding Board Steering Committee Report

Sounding Board Steering Committee Chair Martin provided a report on the Committee's March 14 meeting which included outlining the process for Sounding Board membership. The Committee discussed inviting current members to a second term and identifying new members for recruitment.

CPB Overview

Johnson provided an overview of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and the public radio ecosystem which includes CPB, NPR and other national program distributors and public radio stations. Johnson outlined the CPB FY25 operating budget reviewing how the money flows from the federal appropriation to TV and radio stations. Johnson outlined potential threats to public media including loss of CPB funding and IPR's approach to addressing such, FCC investigations related to underwriting announcements and on-going threats to journalism.

Adjourn

As there was no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:33 p.m.