

MINUTES  
KZYX & Z BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
MARCH 3, 2014  
FORT BRAGG SENIOR CENTER

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER 6:05 P.M.

ATTENDING: Pres.Eliane Herring, Bob Page, Meg Courtney, Stuart Campbell, Laviva Dakers. John Sakowicz, Ed Keller, Fran Kolinier, Holly Madrigal, GM John Coate

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: October 7, 2014 Board Meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/STATUS REPORTS (Board President):

Board president Eliane Herring said there would be 3 pledge drives per year instead of the usual two and thanked all who were involved in the recent pledge drive, that it was a real vote of confidence for the station.

The candidates for the upcoming election were announced: At Large: Paul Lambert, Doug McKenty, Tom Melcher, King Collins. District 4: Meg Courtney. District 3: Patricia Kovner, Jane Futchner.

The candidate forum will be on March 6 at the station in Philo.

Stuart, who is in charge of the election, has mailed out 2300 ballots and there is a program survey on the back of the ballot.

Stuart also has gotten 6 new members to sign up for the newly re-established CAB (Community Advisory Board).

There will be 4 board meetings per year but none in the winter months due to possible difficult weather conditions for travel in the County.

Our local news team now consists of Michael Kislinger and Sheri Quinn.

Stuart will be our new board liaison with a contact to the KZYX website which will then be forwarded to the proper board member(s).

Eliane thanked Stuart for all the work he has been doing.

The KZYX license has been approved at the FCC but the KZYX license is pending because of complaints that have been filed.

MATTERS FROM BOARD MEMBERS (under 4 min.)

Board members Bob Page, Meg Courtney, Fran Kolinier, Holly Madrigal, and Eliane Herring had prepared written speeches censuring the behavior of John Sakowicz. Stuart Campbell and Ed Keller also had negative comments to add about John Sakowicz's behavior. Those who censured John Sakowicz strongly endorsed General Manager John Coate.

John Sakowicz responded by saying he did what he did "out of conscience" but said he would now be on better behavior out of respect to our Chair Eliane Herring.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

The full manager's report and financial statement can be found on the station's website at KZYX.org.

Some highlights:

Recent pledge drive brought in about \$49,000.  
We have more money in the bank than we owe.  
\$7500 was paid as annual rent for the 91.5 transmitter.  
Audits were brought to the meeting from 2002 for anyone to view.

Questions to GM from John Sakowicz:

Was there an update on the Ukiah studio?

(answer) still working on it.

Why is KMEC excluded?

(answer) Building is in the wrong place. Needs better line of site. Is a different organization, with a different mission. Can't get tax-deductions with their non-profit status. Not enough crew to move forward.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

Richard Miller: Read a letter to the board saying that inclusion of all points of view is important to remember.

Sheila Dawn Tracey: Thanked board for posting agenda early and for "simple living" memberships. Said that KMUD's staff salaries are made public, why not KZYY? GM responded that it up to staff if they want that info public. She asked what happened to the strategic plan?

King Collins: Presented a box to the board which contained "charms" and a crystal from "a Jamaican". He had petitions to sign. Wants members to be able to talk to board members - an on-air board meeting w/ the public

Doug McKenty: Likes to know where board members stand. There is a necessity for a strategic plan and a mediation process. Expressed thanks for improvements to the station.

Ellen Saxe: Thanked John Sakowicz for an excellent program on Water in Mendocino County.

Ana Lucas: Sees a trend toward a "nihilistic" voice when speaking about the radio station. Said there are those that have the assumption that when they speak they are speaking for everyone.

Frank Green: Thanked God we have an adult supervisor at the station. Called for a program to read the Toledo Phone Book!

Toni Rizzo (programmer): Said it was important to follow station guidelines. Important to clarify that Open Lines is coming back, not cancelled; it was only temporarily suspended. Thanked the board, staff and programmers at the station.

Michael Brown: Is happy with the health of the station. He volunteered to be on an ad-hoc committee to expand membership.

Tim Gregory (programmer): Encouraged to see the board being functional. Wants a Strategic Plan and a Facebook page for outreach.

Toni Orans: Used to have a children's program called Story Hour. She would like to have a children's program again. Thinks it is a big lack that KZYX does not have a children's program.

David Steffen (staff): Made a plug for Richard Miller and is glad his show (Mind, Body, Politics) is coming back because it is a good show. Hopes Sakowicz will not bring up merging with KMEC. Noted that Open Lines was not cancelled. Someone called and said "Fuck" and was not cut off. Doug McKenty (programmer) was put "on notice" and he (David) does not want to read about this any more on the listserve. A "beep machine" has been bought and paid for and will be in place soon.

Mindy Cairn: Works for the station to pay for her membership. She says threats and bullying are not OK. "If you burn down the house the FCC will not give you another house" KMEC is a low power station/different from KZYX. Asks for RESPECT!

Dave Hopmann (ex board president): There were many "fires" to extinguish and a serious financial crisis when John Coate came on as GM in 2008. He managed to get a line of credit from Marty Lombardy at Savings Bank. Dave says he won't tolerate questions that aren't in good faith. All information that John Sakowicz wants is available for the asking. Demands Sakowicz drop his bullying behavior!

Ann Rennaker: Doesn't like the fracking ads on the Ecology Hour show. David Steffen countered that KZYX has never had ads from the oil/fracking industry.

NOTE: NPR programs have their own underwriters, some of whom may be in the oil and gas industry. The station has no control over the mention of NPR's underwriters, and we are bound by the terms of our contract with NPR to air the parts of their programs where they mention their underwriters.

David Gurney: Questioned the "line-of-site" argument for not partnering with KMEC. Why not move our whole studio operation to Ukiah or Fort Bragg? Anderson Valley not an optimum location.

Irene Malone: Wants to have more local cultural events or fundraisers. (?)

Paul Lambert: Why doesn't the person (such as above) who has a suggestion, take that on her/his self?

It is up to us to make things happen, including radio programs that you/one would like to have.

Malcolm McDonald: AVA should not be a "whipping boy". Programmers are afraid of John Coate or Mary Aigner – of what they are going to say....

Mary Aigner (program director): "The elephant in the room is programming." KZYX serves a diverse audience. Of course there is a desire to present the best quality programming to the community. Wants to do a broad base survey but takes time and staff. Nothing is off limits on air except those regulated by the FCC. But there needs to be a certain level of responsibility.

Derek Hoyle: Of utmost importance is equipment. "John Coate has it nailed" as he is taking care of that.

## DISCUSSION MATTERS

### Code of Responsibilities

Pres. Eliane Herring noted that the MCPB Board of Directors Responsibilities list from our KZYX Handbook has been buried in the back of the binder. She recommended that it be put in the front of the binder; she read 10 of the 22 responsibilities and asked the board what they thought of this document.

John Sakowicz said he had concerns about the document and needed a legal opinion. He had questions about: #5 the confidentiality clause, #7 do nothing to violate the trust of those that elected or appointed me to the board, #10 do not undermine the authority of the General Manager.....

Holly Madrigal: stated she thought that confidentiality was important, and that we should be able to question decisions.

Laviva Dakers: approved of confidentiality but noted it can be used for ill intentions if taken out of context.

Ed Keller: approved of the confidentiality clause because board members tend to rely on the listserve since we live so far from each other.

Laviva: questioned #21, the evaluation of the board. Suggested we do it at the next board orientation.

### **Action Item: Improve Responsibility Guidelines at next meeting**

## IMPROVED MEETING PROTOCOLS

Meg talked about how we have begun to formalize our meetings:

We have now a standard format for our agenda.

The agenda is now posted on the website at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting.

Comments from the public on Non-agenda Items are limited to 3 minutes

Comments from the Public on Action Items (that require a vote) are allowed **after** discussion by the board but **before** the vote (limit 3 min per topic)

Suggestion from board: Have timed estimates on agenda items?

Meg suggested we have board training.

## OTHER BUSINESS

Stuart is now tweaking the new board communication system.

Board members can do a "spot" for the radio

Candidate Forum will be next Thursday (March 6) at the Philo Studio

## NEXT MEETING:

**MONDAY MAY 5 IN UKIAH.** OUR ANNUAL KZYX PARTY / TBA

ADJOURNED: 9:15 p.m.