

**MEETING SUMMARY  
OF THE NPR ILLINOIS COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD  
MARCH 1, 2019**

The NPR Illinois Community Advisory Board (CAB) met in Springfield and connected by videoconference to Chicago on Friday, March 1, 2019.

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| Present in Chicago:     | Cindi Canary, David Kohn   |
| Present in Springfield: | Nice Bogdanovich, Deanie Brown, Sean Crawford, Kathleen Dunn, Randy Eccles, William Holland, Bethany Jaeger, Mario Jimenez, Rachel Otwell, Adam Porter, Megan Pressnall, David Racine, Kent Redfield, Blake Roderick, Dick Schuldt, Karen Witter |
| Present by phone:       | John Carpenter, Stephanie Rhodes, George Van Dusen   |
| Absent:                 | Laurence Msall, Chuck Scholz, Corrine Wood   |

**CAB MEETING SCHEDULE**

1. The Community Advisory Board agreed to maintain the existing schedule of meeting quarterly on the first Friday of each quarter, with primary locations in Springfield and Chicago connected by videoconference and phone for those who cannot attend in person.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

2. The Nominating Committee of Cindi Canary, Bethany Jaeger, Mario Jimenez and George Van Dusen met and received numerous referrals to candidates for terms that begin July 1, 2019. The committee identified five potential nominees aligning with the following priority areas:
  - Young professionals and individuals younger than 50;
  - Individuals of diverse ethnic backgrounds;
  - Geographic representation, particularly suburban and rural communities; and
  - Corporate foundations or other philanthropic networks.
3. Given the board's staggered terms, the advisory board can expect to nominate an average of four candidates each year.
4. The Nominating Committee will formally nominate up to five candidates at the June 1, 2019 CAB meeting.
5. The committee seeks to build relationships with communities and organizations that can help grow and diversify the future pool of advisory board candidates. This includes groups such as the Northwest Municipal Conference managers, DuPage Mayors and Managers and the umbrella membership group called the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus. The regional councils of government include emerging leaders with firsthand experience in public affairs and a potential interest in NPR Illinois programming.

6. The committee also will include the Equip for Equality as a group with a high interest in volunteer board service and public policy issues.

## **NPR ILLINOIS UPDATE**

7. Public Radio Week is planned for April 29 through May 3, 2019 to help raise awareness and celebrate public radio. Events include an April 30 gala with keynote speaker Scott Simon, host of NPR's Weekend Edition Saturday and Chicago native. Tickets are \$200. Event sponsors are sought to help cover they keynote speaker fees.
  - Other Public Radio events planned include live broadcasts of NPR Illinois programming, a Public Affairs Reporting Hall of Fame event, podcast workshops for students and a Tiny Desk Concert, which is a local version of the NPR's All Songs Considered live musical recordings in studio.
8. NPR Illinois is considering moving its studio from the University of Illinois Springfield campus to downtown Springfield. The consideration coincides with UIS's exploration of growing its downtown presence, aligning with Innovate Springfield as the first hub of the Illinois Innovation Network to accelerate economic development through research and innovation. NPR Illinois' considerations include:
  - Potential for increased attendance in NPR Illinois' engagement and media literacy efforts;
  - Flexible space for the recording studio and multi-purpose gathering rooms;
  - Increased capacity to place more Public Affairs Reporting inters through UIS's master's degree program.
9. NPR Illinois established a goal of eventually acquiring a second FM signal dedicated to playing more music programming, improving quality of the signal's geographic reach and sound clarity, and engaging students in live performances.
10. NPR Illinois obtained a grant to partner with Propublica in a local investigative reporting network. NPR Illinois' Rachel Otwell is dedicated full time to a project investigating how public university systems handle sexual abuse allegations and abide by public information laws.
11. The UIS Public Affairs Reporting master's degree program is in a search for a new director, as longtime director Charlie Wheeler is retiring in 2019. NPR Illinois is exploring ways the station can take on more interns so more students can be accepted into the PAR program and placed in news bureaus covering public affairs.
12. In addition to story ideas offered by CAB members in advance of the March 1 meeting, members offered the following ideas:
  - Follow up to Illinois' voter registration database breach of 2016 to see if the election system has improved

- The chronic underfunding of Illinois' 650 downstate pension systems' and contributing factors; potential source includes Truth in Accounting's evaluation of Illinois' pension systems and its public database
- "Blue state" relations with the federal government in the Trump Administration

#### **NEXT STEPS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. Bethany Jaeger will circulate an updated summary of board terms.
2. Bethany will update the list of CAB nominees based on board input.
3. Nice Bagdanovich will send the Public Radio Week schedule to the CAB and will invite sponsors for the April 30 gala featuring Scott Simon.
4. Randy Eccles will periodically distribute links to NPR Illinois stories based on or related to the CAB's ideas.
5. Randy Eccles will convene the Civic Education Committee of Cindi Canary, Mario Jimenez and Kent Redfield.