

Meeting Summary

NPR Illinois Community Advisory Board
September 6, 2019

Meeting was held in Springfield and by videoconference to Chicago.

Present in Chicago	David Kohn, George Van Dusen, Lisbeth Lenos, John Carpenter
Present in Springfield	Phil Lopez, Blake Roderick, David Racine, Sean Crawford, Randy Eccles, Karen Witter, Deanie Brown, William Holland, Mario Jimenez, Regina Kovach, Megan Pressnall, Kent Redfield, Chuck Scholz, Nabih Elhajj
Present by phone	Jamey Dunn-Thomason, Adam Porter, Stephanie Rhodes,
Absent	Cindy Canary, Michael Diaz, Kathleen Dunn, Robert Gallo, Laurence Msall, Dick Schuldt, Corinne Wood

11:33 a.m. – Meeting called to order by vice chair Karen Witter

1. Fundraising

- a. Randy Eccles discussed the goal of 100% of board members financially supporting the station. He said the level was at 80% before new board members arrived. He laid out ways that gifts can be made, including the Calendar Club.
- b. Eccles presented the funding structure for NPR Illinois. The station is funded in a variety of ways. Those include grants, university support, listener support, business underwriting, engagement and events.

2. Editorial

- a. Sean Crawford provided a news update. NPR Illinois' first story as part of a ProPublica partnership aired in late August. It focused on sexual misconduct of professors on the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign campus. More stories are planned throughout the remainder of 2019.
- b. Crawford said a collaboration with other Illinois public radio stations is set for late September on enrollment declines at Illinois colleges and universities. Preliminary discussions have been held of collaborating with the Better Government Association on an investigative reporter position.
- c. Eccles mentioned the collaborative known as the Illinois Newsroom has ended.
- d. News story ideas were submitted from the board.

3. Audience Development and Engagement

- a. Eccles explained the Illinois Issues annual survey will soon begin, with about 40 questions to gauge the public's view on various topics. Reports, both on-air and online, will be developed once the results are known.
- b. Karen Witter pointed out the This I Believe essay contest will have its 14th year in 2020. Plans are underway for the sponsor, the Rotary Club of Springfield Sunrise, to help find ways to boost the scholarships given to winners from \$200 to \$1000. Financial partners are being sought. The plan is to also hold a public event, possibly at the ALPLM, where winners would read their essays live.
- c. Eccles said Public Radio Week in 2020 would likely be re-branded as Public Radio Month. This will allow events to be spread out over a longer period and make it easier for people to attend them. The spring is being targeted.

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- d. Eccles said the Civics Education Committee, which has been discussed previously, is still in development.

1:31 p.m. – Vice chair Witter declared the meeting adjourned.