

**NPR ILLINOIS COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING SUMMARY-SEPTEMBER 22, 2020**

The NPR Illinois Community Advisory Board met via Zoom for its quarterly meeting on September 22, 2020.

Present: Adam Porter, Barb Pesch, Bethany Jaeger, Chuck Scholz, David Kohn, Deanie Brown, Dick Schuldt, Dr. Regina Kovach, George Van Dusen, Jamey Dunn-Thomason, Jeremiah Stephan, John Carpenter, Karen Witter, Kent Redfield, Mario Jimenez, Megan Pressnall, Molly Lamb, Monique Garcia, Nabih Elhajj, Nice Garcia, Randy Eccles, Raychel McBride, Robert Gallo, Sean Crawford, William Holland, Bob Gallo, Karen Witter

Incoming chair Karen Witter called the meeting to order at 11: 35 a.m. and welcomed new members Monique Garcia, Raychel McBride and Jeremiah Stephan. Witter reported that she, Bethany Jaeger, Randy Eccles and Nice Garcia held an orientation with the three new members on September 21. All members present introduced themselves to each other with brief information about their background.

1. The Community Advisory Board approved Megan Pressnall as the Vice Chair for a one-year term.
2. Randy Eccles reported that the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in changing the staff working environment. Most of the staff except the anchors Sean Crawford, Bob Meyer and Michelle Eccles are working from home. Most of the meetings among staff members and with donors are held through Zoom. University protocols for COVID-19 are followed at the station. New Chancellor Karen Whitney will be visiting the station in October. Karen Witter will follow up with the chancellor to introduce the board and recognize their support of NPR Illinois.
3. Randy Eccles said there is a 5% cut in funding from the university that could be increased during the year and a slight decrease in gifts and underwriting due to the pandemic, so there has been a need to make some changes in programming, engagement events, and fundraising activities.
 - a. On Point goes from 2 hours to 1 hour. Station is looking into how to fill the other hour.
 - b. Live from here is going away.
 - c. Debate Parties, Thank You Fest, Public Radio Days have been cancelled for the time being.
 - d. Podcast Academy will be planned for spring 2021, and a virtual option will be prepared as well.
 - e. Station will be focusing on generating revenue and finding creative solutions for the pledge drives and engagement events.

4. Community Advisory Board members offered a variety of suggestions for fundraising and engagement which the station will consider executing. NPR Illinois requests that the CAB members share any contacts with them who are in the key positions in organizations that could create revenue for the station through donations, grants or underwriting. Some of the suggestions included:
 - a. 'I Love NPR Illinois' face masks as a premium in the pledge drive.
 - b. Preparing pre-recorded videos on different topics that people can go back and watch on their own schedule.
 - c. Preparing short pieces that include community members sharing their experiences coping with the pandemic to put on the air and potentially partner with other organizations, such as museums, that are also capturing stories.
 - d. Looking into election judges donating their fees to the station.
 - e. Make it easier to give through tools such as Venmo and offer NPR IL as a place to pilot this within the University.
5. NPR Illinois staff is down. There is now a double approval process at the University for hiring, but the University has approved a search for a Statehouse editor. In addition, an extra help position has been filled for Statehouse coverage.
6. Community Advisory Board members discussed the email sent to them on Sunday, September 20 by six former employees of the station. The Community Advisory Board discussed the need to respond and acknowledge receipt of the communication and to express the CAB's commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion. This commitment is reflected in the successful effort to diversify the board and bring people with diverse backgrounds and experiences to serve on the CAB. Members discussed the role of the CAB. It is an advisory body with no authority over hiring, and personnel matters fall under the jurisdiction of University HR. The CAB By-Laws state: "the Board has no authority to exercise control over daily management or operations." CAB meetings are subject to the Open Meetings Act. Karen Witter provided an opportunity for anyone present on the call to provide public comment. There were no requests to speak. Karen Witter said that she would prepare a draft response to the email and will circulate it to the CAB for input prior to sending.
7. Story ideas were discussed. CAB members are encouraged to send story ideas to Randy and Sean at any time. It was suggested that the goal for collecting and discussing story ideas going forward is for Randy to send to the CAB in advance a list of top categories that have been covered so the CAB can see what areas might warrant more coverage or new angles.
8. Nice Garcia will update the CAB link on the NPR Illinois website. Community Advisory Board members are asked to review their listing on the website and send Nice any updates to their bios and photos in the next two weeks.

9. Karen Witter and Bethany Jaeger will invite the new Chancellor to a meeting to introduce the CAB, our role and our commitment to serving our role with a full range of diverse perspectives.
10. Given the pandemic, future quarterly meetings of the Community Advisory Board will occur virtually until further notice. The next meetings are Tuesday, December 8, 2020 and Tuesday, March 23, 2021 from 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
11. Karen Witter adjourned the meeting at 1:30 p.m.