

The meeting was called to order by board president Rich Liebert at 6:30 p.m. The meeting was conducted by conference call on telephones. Calling in and present were board members Joe Moll, Thomas Risberg and Diane Stinger. Guests calling in and present were KGPR station manager Tom Halverson.

Rich called for changes to and/or approval of the minutes of the February 17 meeting, which had been emailed to the board. Diane moved for approval, Joe seconded, motion passed.

Rich called for changes to and/or approval of the minutes of the work meeting conducted by phone conference on April 13. Diane noted one change, that in his station manager's report in those meeting he had said Lisa Schmidt would be interviewed for Voiced and Views and that was not in the minutes. No further changes were made. Diane moved and Joe seconded to accept those minutes as amended. Motion passed.

Rich asked that minutes be forwarded to Tom Halverson, KGPR station manager, to have them posted on the website. Rich asked that the last four months of board minutes and agendas be forwarded to the station manager, who would then forward them to Louis at Shortgrass for posting on the website.

Rich gave the financial report, stating it was the same as last week at the work meeting:

\$20,000 is being mailed from Montana Public Radio (MPR) in Missoula in the form of a check, with a \$63,000 balance remaining in GFRA account at MPR. GFRA currently has \$6,000 in its checking account and \$2,000 in its savings account. All bills have been paid by check. Andersen ZurMuehlen (AZ), the accounting firm employed by GFRA, has mailed the checks for bill payments to Rich Liebert but they were mailed to an incorrect address and are being returned to AZ for remailing.

Rich reported that the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) funded by the CARES Act, ran out of money quickly and he was unable to submit an application and procure a loan for GFRA payroll. Rich said he will continue to stay in contact with First Interstate Bank in the event the PPP is further funded and GFRA might be able to submit an application.

Rich asked for the station manager report. Tom reported that his email is out at MSU Great Falls and he was unable to email a station manager report, as requested by Rich Liebert, but will do so as soon as his email is functioning once again. He reported that MSU Great Falls initially locked the KGPR staff out of the building but Tom was able to get the staff access to the building. He explained to the MSU GF that there would be himself and four core DJ's who would need access to the building, access was granted. Tom reported he had recorded a Great Falls Public Schools levy event, Senator John Tester for On Point; Tom Moore and Jan Cahill from Great Falls Public Schools; Jane Weber, Cascade County Commissioner; and Trisha Gardner, Cascade County Health Officer. The interview with Jane Weber was aired on Saturday and will be aired again on Tuesday, April 21, at 1:30 p.m. Tom reported he had uploaded 13 more podcasts. He said there will be four new volunteers coming on as soon as the COVID 19 lockdown allows, at which time KGPR will resume local midday broadcasts on Mondays and Tuesdays. The volunteers are James Cherenpanko, Charlie Alamo, Gabriel Vasichek, and Beth Cooper. Tom stated, "Rich has asked me to work on cut outs and drop ins. I will email Rich and let him know (my progress)". Tom said he had spoken with Grant Stebbins since the stay-at-home order commences and Grant about doing a concert on KGPR and running it through Facebook. A talk show was discussed, Tom stated we are not split up in the studio now. Tom noted that April 21 is Holocaust Remembrance Day and KGPR has a recording of an interview Kerry Callahan conducted with a Holocaust survivor years ago which Tom plans to air on Tuesday. Tom noted Lisa Schmidt has said she has a sponsor for Land of Grass but it is not yet known to Tom who that will be. (Please see Tom Halverson's outline of the station manager report, copied to page 3 of these minutes).

Rich noted the interviews on Voices and Views this week were outstanding. He asked Tom whether he could bring the volunteers in one at a time during the lockdown, Tom replied he is going to wait a week or two to be safe.

Engineering report: Pertinent information was that three new CD players had been installed. The satellite dish will need a new cover, it will be replaced this coming summer at a cost of several hundred dollars. Joe Moll noted it is a 12 foot dish.

Rich said he is exploring replacing the T1 telephone line, which costs \$360/per month, with a wireless plan that costs \$160/month. He is unsure of capital costs.

Old business: Community public service announcements in support of local businesses was discussed. Rich asked Tom H. to check with Shane Enzweiler to see who might need help. Rich suggested prominent business leaders be interviewed for Voices and Views. The discussion was linked to the idea of KGPR branding itself as a source of local information.

New business: Podcasts were discussed. All podcasts are emailed by Tom H. to Louis at Shortgrass in MP3 format, Louis creates the podcast. Thomas R. pointed out they are subsequently hosted on Podbean .

Rich stated he will utilize the email list of donors sent by Missoula to write a letter asking listeners what they want to hear.

Rich asked Tom H. to send him the template for the newsletter. Rich asked Tom how it was formerly put together. Tom H. said he and Tim Hodges, former GFRA president, put assembled the newsletter and the board read it and approved it, then it went out in both email and hard copy form. Tom H. stated he had previously sent it to Rich, Rich asked him to resent due to a recent malfunction in Rich's email. Rich pointed out the point of a newsletter and/or letter would be to get feedback, which can also be solicited on Facebook. Thomas R. pointed out that anything interactive plays well on Facebook, such as asking listeners which music, in particular which songs, they would like to hear. Rich asked how it has been done in the past, whether there had been a previous survey. Tom H. replied KGPR tries to keep a 50/50 mix of talk and music, and that radio hosts do a lot of work crafting their shows. Rich asked Tom to get email distribution ready for next week, and a newsletter drafted for the May meeting. It was agreed the newsletter be in PDF form.

Rich asked Tom H. whether he had considered a cell phone company for a business cell phone, and whether he had considered which he himself would prefer, a flip phone or a smart phone. Tom H. replied he had given no consideration to either.

Rich commented that the Voices and Views interviews conducted by Tom H. have been excellent. Thomas R. pointed out the interviews are relevant and creating "buzz". Joe Moll pointed out the Senior Citizens' Center as a potential interviewee, that the Senior Center is providing healthy meals at reasonable prices.

As a final thought Rich reviewed that Tom H. would send the template for the newsletter to Rich by next week and Rich would circulate it to the board, which would then "kick it around" and finalize it at the next board meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Please see Station Manager's report copied to the third page of these minutes.

## **Station Managers Rerport-4/20/20**

- 1. College Lock-out**
- 2. Recorded Great Falls Levy Event-Great Falls Rising  
Senator John Tester-On Point**

**Tom Moore-Jan Cahill-School District**

**Mayor Bob Kelly-(updates each Saturday on Voices and Views)**

**County Commissioner Jane Weber**

**CCHD-Trish Gardner**

- 3. Up-loaded 13 more podcasts**
- 4. New Volunteers-James Cherentanko, Charlie Alaimo, Gabriel Vasichek and Beth Hall-( be able to add Monday and Tuesday midday shows**
- 5. Cut outs/drop ins**
- 6. Facebook Live**
- 7. Talk show-software included in podcast to record voices and stack calls**
- 8. Holocaust remembrance day is Tuesday/April 21<sup>st</sup>  
88 year old survivor Naomi Bonn- special with Kerry Callahan at 1pm**

**Submitted 4/20/20**

**Tom Halverson-Station Manager**

