

GFPR Nov 16, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes (Great Falls Public Radio Association)

The meeting was called to order by President Rich Liebert on Zoom at 6:30 p.m. Present were board members Janice Driver, Joseph Moll, Thomas Risberg, Matthias Schalper and Diane Stinger. Also present was station manager Tom Halverson.

The minutes from the last meeting were reviewed. Matthias moved and Joe seconded to approve the minutes as written, the motion passed.

Rich Liebert gave the financial report, which he had emailed earlier to the board. Emails read as follows:

<b>11/03/2020 Bank Balance</b>					<b>\$9,366.34</b>
	\$1,100.00	5680	9/24/2020	Anderson ZurMue	
	\$60.00	5682	9/24/2020	Great Falls Colle	
	\$824.62	5687	10/7/2020	Northwestern En	
	\$616.00	5688	10/20/2020	Anderson ZurMue	
	\$61.21	5691	10/20/2020	Great Falls Colle	
	\$250.00	5693	10/20/2020	Wolfram	
<b>Total checks printed</b>					<b>\$2,911.83</b>
	\$1,153.17		11/12/2020	Thomas Halverso	
	\$1,149.81		11/13/2020	Internal Revenue	
	\$222.00		11/13/2020	Department of R	
<b>Payroll items upcoming</b>					<b>\$2,524.98</b>
<b>Balance after all bills &amp; Payroll</b>					<b>\$3,929.53</b>

Here's the reality.....1. I'm 'sitting on the six checks below (payroll automatic deposit) to send out once we have the \$15,000 transfer in First Interstate Bank, hopefully tomorrow...or next day.

2. Pledge numbers - Ray sent the donor list, and it show \$24K, and that already includes sustaining monthly donors and I don't have precise numbers yet as the MTPR business manager is out sick.
3. Current KGPR account in Missoula is: \$36K 'after' the \$15K transfer check cut last week. Several week ago Sue Ginn (business manager at MTPR) informed me the account was \$42K 'before' the Pledge Drive. Of the \$24K 'pledge' it 'seems' \$8,000 came in recently (real money) with another \$16K to be gathered.
4. Current balance below is before any \$15K transfer into the checking account and Savings has \$2000.
5. Latest GMP attorney bill is \$1500 which is due before end of the month. I expect another one about the same for actually finishing all the paperwork and submissions for 1 Dec 20 submission to FCC. Our internal DEADLINE is 20 Nov. We already paid \$420 to GMP in initial invoice.

Rich said there is \$2008 in the savings account. Thomas asked what IRS check was for, Richard responded quarterly payroll taxes.

Rich is positive our PPP loan will be forgiven, but is still waiting final word. Currently, after the \$15,000 transfer is made, we have \$36,000 in the Missoula account. The sustaining donations continue to come in each month, but it is difficult to get an accurate picture of our monthly income from sustaining donors. Thomas R. made the comment that the Andersen-Zurmuehlen fees seem high. Rich said he would like to get Jeremy Trebas

to take over from A-Z at a much lower fee.

Station Manager's report, Tom Halverson: I sent the On Point Veteran's Talk Radio David Thatcher and the Doolittle Raiders episode to Ray (Ekness) and did not get a response back. I sent Matt Donnelly's station I.D. recording to KUFM before pledge week but have not heard it on the air, has anyone else? (One response-no) Nancy Petley has expressed an interest in volunteering as a D.J. On Tuesday, November 10 there was a disruption; James and I were trying to get on the air and the computer was down, like somebody had cut the cable again, and finally we were able to pull the computer back up and we had James on the air, but I am not so sure he was out because when I went to go air On Point at 1:00 o'clock the signal was thrown to Missoula so I had to go call up to the hill and reverse that signal, which I did, so I am not so sure what happened there but after talking to James, he seems pretty good with computers and he seems to think we need a whole new computer and he came up with a suggestion but I don't think right now is the proper time to do that considering our financial situation so we will just make do with what we have. I did call Montana State Parks and Big Sky Heritage and I welcomed them to KGPR and I let them know about the opportunity for interviews and that went real well. Smoke BBQ from downtown Great Falls has donated \$500 worth of gift certificates which has absolutely blown my mind, I just completed an interview with him today for Voices and Views. The FCC report 2019 Issues and Concerns is finished, I did over the weekend I spoke with volunteers Del Darko and Amy Grisak and Marty Bannon about their shows and they want to continue but right now everyone is concerned about the Covid 19 and that's holding them back from volunteering. That's all I have for my report.

Rich asked for questions from the board for Tom. Diane asked whether those volunteers had remote capabilities. Tom H said they normally come into the studio and record phone calls with interviewees from the studio. He said he has offered them the use of the portable recorder but they have not taken him up on the offer, and most of the stuff needs to be done in the studio because of distance, for instance, if they want to interview someone in Glacier they can't drive up to Glacier with the recorder, so we use the phone. Diane asked whether that means they won't have a show, Tom H. said he has one new show to air from them and then will go to repeats until they come back. Rich pointed out they have some good repeats, for instance, The American Prairie Reserve, and other topics that are always timely. Tom H. agreed, and said he is going to lean on Musician's Mix, because Grant has been great about coming in and doing recordings, he has a lot of material that is fresh.

Janet asked about the Smoked BBQ gift certificates, and what they are for, Tom said he asked us to give them away on the air. Janice asked how much they are per certificate, Tom H replied: \$50 each. Rich asked how we should use those to advance our cause. Thomas suggested a raffle, or drive it to the website, such as anyone who donates \$20 or more will be entered into a raffle to win a \$50 gift certificate for Smoked BBQ. Rich and Janice agreed we need to get some mileage out of this. An on-air raffle was suggested. It was agreed the board would exchange ideas for leveraging the gift certificates for KGPR benefit, using the ability to take donations as KGPR, saying the winner's names on the air, raising \$ for KGPR.

Rich asked Tom H. to look into why the David Thatcher interview was not aired by KUFM before Veterans' Day. Rich asked Tom H. which day Nancy Petley was interested in volunteering, Tom H. replied "Friday evenings." Rich asked Tom to send the contracts to MT State Parks and Big Sky Heritage, have them sign it and send them back. Rich asked Tom whether he had updated the missing quarterly report for FCC, Tom H. said yes.

Rich reviewed the disruption in local broadcast was from the T! line being accidentally cut by a city crew, then repaired. It was in the engineering report, which was otherwise routine. (Note: nothing about the Nov. 10 disruption).

Diane asked how many shows per month James Cherewatenko does per month, for sponsorship purposes. Normally, one per month but Tom H. said he will talk to James when James comes in on the 24<sup>th</sup>. Janice said she would like to know for certain which dates will definitely be available for offering sponsorships.

Rich asked if Del Darko is still on the sidelines for a farm show. Tom H. said yes. Rich pointed out we are trying to get general sponsorships for \$120 per month.

Old Business:

FCC license renewal. Rich said all ownership reports have been updated, we have not submitted ownership reports for several years; they had to be reconstructed. Greg completed for 2019, the newest one. Rich finished the equal employment opportunity report, he will notify attorneys that Tom has uploaded the first quarter 2019 public inspection file, which was missing. We are at about 90% complete, our bill will be about \$1500 for this part. Joe said the ownership reports are part of the public inspection file. Rich said we had to file ownership reports for 2013, 2015 and 2017. Ownership reports are filed every other year. There is not a link to our public inspection file on our website. The files are at FCC.gov. Rich suggested we keep a paper file in the office as well as the electronic reports. Rich pointed out as long as we have the application in we can continue to broadcast after April 1, even if it has not been approved by April 1. The estimate is the total attorney bill for the filing will be \$3000.

Pledge goal: Pledge goal was \$30,000, according to the spreadsheet we got \$24,000 from about 185 local donors. More and more people are sustaining donors, it is hard to say what our income is, or what was generated from the donor letter. It was asked what date the donor letter was emailed.

Rich reiterated we can do business as KGPR, and asked Tom H. to get that in the contracts with State Parks and Heritage Area. The contact person for Heritage Area is Pat Doyle.

Tom H. will have Great Falls Public Library on Voices and Views. Rich would like to have Zack Shermele on Voices and Views and have a story about KGPR on the television. Janice mentioned the director of the McLaughlin Research Center is available for an interview on VV.

New Business:

Broadcast agreement. Has been the same model for many years. Rich would like to renegotiate. This one has been used since a long time before our funding was changes from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. Rich is proposing that we consider at the next board meeting to pay half now and half after April. Thomas asked how much of the total fee KUFM is charging us for AP and Capitol Bureau. The key question is what percentage of the load are we carrying? Joe said at one time we carried half the cost of setting up the Capitol Bureau. Thomas noted he wonders about all of the

percentages they are charging us for, and that we not pay anything until we get clarity on what we are paying for. It was agreed we would get clarity and then ask that we rewrite the contract so that we pay half now and half in six months. We want a reasonable agreement that is fair. We have already paid \$7,000 for AP. We are 10% of listening area. Thomas R. pointed out our listeners are used in the Missoula application for CPB funding.

Tom Halverson left meeting at 7:40 p.m.

It was agreed we would inquire through an email to Ray what the exact fees are, figure our percentage, renegotiate the contract to pay half now, and vote on the proposal at next month meeting.

Rich mentioned Gerry Jennings called regarding getting the Symphony Preview on KGPR. Grant Harville is doing the symphony preview recording from his home. Janice proposed broadcasting the Symphony concerts as well. Rich advocated getting the Symphony back on KGPR in whatever way we can. Diane will continue to work with Gerry and Grant.

Rich would like to schedule an executive session focused on the 2020 budget. He pointed out when the signal was cut from the studio Greg Muir made sure we had the Missoula signal, which is a priority for many listeners. Thomas asked, why are we going through all this trouble to keep us independent if we are not offering something different? The important thing to me is to provide local content that matters. Can we produce 5 or 10 hours of really high quality programming per week, is that something the board cares about, or is the music the draw?

Rich: we want the music and the conversations, psa's to keep community connected.

Thomas Where are our costs coming from? If we are spending a ton of money to do the logistics to have a DJ come in and run a show, and that is 80% of what Tom does, and if what we really want is OP and VV, are we spending 80% on things that are tangential to what we want. I am asking you guys what you want. I know I want the local programs. If it just music, that is not what would bring me to listen.....I ask myself but, for.....If not for KGPR, but for KGPR I would not hear.... We need to decide what we are willing to pay money for.

Volunteers were discussed, and the need for more volunteers. It was suggested to go to Great Falls Rising for volunteers and donations.

An executive session was tentatively scheduled for Monday, November 30 at 7:00 p.m. with an agenda of the 2020 budget and the broadcast agreement.

Janice moved, Joe seconded to adjourn, motion passed.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m.