

Great Falls Public Radio Association

The meeting was called to order on Zoom by board president Rich Liebert. Board members present were Lonnie Hill, Joe Moll, Thomas Risbert and Diane Stinger. Guests present were volunteer program manager Gabe Vasichek ,new Friday hosts Annie Dunckel and Joshua Dowdy, Eric Peterson and Tim Hodges.

Gabe introduced Annie. Annie explained she had worked at KBRX in Austin, TX as a student DJ for three years and had additional experience at a radio station in Charlottesville, VA. She will start a Friday evening 8 – 10 pm show twice monthly in June.

Joshua Dowdy was introduced. Josh also has previous radio experience. Gabe expressed amazement at the people who have come forward with experience. Josh will start practice shows with Gabe and will host a Friday 8-10 p.m. show once per month.

The secretary's report (minutes) from the last meeting was read. Diane asked for a correction of the total amount of money the station had in the last month's financial report, Rich stated it was \$44,394. The minutes were approved as written with the one correction.

Rich gave the financial report. \$19,260.86 in checking and \$2, in savings at Great Falls First Interstate Bank, \$41,908 in the account at MTPR. Thomas asked whether we had ever learned the status of Covid funding, Gabe responded no specific information had been received, Tim Hodges in monitoring. Rich reported he had renegotiated with Anderson Zurmuehlen to pay the past due balance of \$780 in payments of \$200 per month. Rich asked for a motion to accept that payment plan. Joe moved and Lonnie seconded, the motion passed. Rich reminded the board GFPRRA will pay MTPR \$14,000 on June 1.

Program Director report: Gabe reported the Decorating House is a new underwriter for Thursday and Friday a.m and Saturday Classical Journey and local classical show. It was noted sponsor rates have been set at \$50, \$65 and \$85. Thomas asked Gabe to make a list of what the studio needs. Gabe responded he and Greg Muir have communicated often and Gabe feels Greg has a better idea of what the studio needs. Gabe's one wish is to upgrade so that guests sound as good as the host through the mics, while recording interviews. Gabe said he appreciates meeting the new hosts and having new underwriters. Regarding programming, Rich reported this Wednesday will feature Roger McConnell, Diane Carlson Evans and David Thatcher, On Point recordings to "kick start" Wednesdays 3 – 4 p.m. Gabe reported many PSA's are coming in and being aired, he is making every effort to keep them fresh. Eric Peterson's second show is complete, Eric will deliver the CD to the station.

Lonnie Hill reported on social media. He said the website is in good shape, he is promoting Eric Peterson's shows. Lonnie asked that everyone communicate ideas to him. Rich will email Memorial Day promo to Lonnie. Gabe asked whether DJ's can use FB page as a home page for requests, Lonnie said yes. Thomas asked Gabe to give Lonnie a list of DJ's and make them editors so DJ's can interact with listeners on Facebook.

Liability insurance was discussed. It was noted the insurance protects the organization from allegations of board member malfeasance. Thomas stated if we do not have assets to protect it is

difficult to justify spending \$936 per year for insurance. Rich said Tim Hodges has pointed out we have not been following by-laws faithfully with regard to elections, board members due to a lack of board members. Diane suggested we pay the insurance for one more year and reassess after a complete year of volunteer management. Rich called for a motion, Diane moved, Joe seconded to pay for liability insurance for one more year. Diane, Lonnie Hill and Joe Moll and Rich voted aye, Thomas voted nay. Motion passed. Joe suggested have a membership meeting in the fall and call for more board members.

May 6 community non-profit showcase was discussed. Eric and Gabe did many interviews with the participants. Gabe will prepare the interviews for airing. Gabe felt like KGPR was a vital local media presence. Eric said he enjoyed making the videos and Gabe did wonderful interviews. Rich asked how the interviews could be publicized, perhaps Facebook? Lonnie said they could be put on Youtube and a link put on Facebook. Joe stated KGPR has a Youtube channel. Gabe will look into the KGPR Youtube channel situation. Thomas remarked we could have Eric and Gabe do interviews at another public event, making KGPR the voice of Great Falls. Gabe commended Eric's professional equipment that made it possible. Rich suggested a one time per month presence at the Farmer's Market. Thomas suggested finding someone with background who funds grants to radio/arts. It was determined Gabe would begin uploading the videos to KGPR Youtube this month. It was also determined we would research foundations that fund children's arts.

Lonnie Hill agreed to "take a stab" at making a KGPR tri-fold brochure. Annie suggested putting the schedule on the back of a tri-fold.

Rich said he will deliver the digital recorder to Mille at Cassiopeia Books to record Gary Alt on May 22 and Rich will record Ken Robison on May 27. Rich would like to feature Ken Robison, Women Patriots of WWI, in a special On Point broadcast.

Joe suggested we have a presence at the fall National Alliance on Mental Illness conference in the fall.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 p.m.