

The meeting was called to order by board president Rich Liebert on the Zoom platform. Present on Zoom with Rich were board members Lonnie Hill, Joe Moll, Dan Manella, Jason Olthoff, Thomas Risberg, Mattias Schalper, and Diane Stinger. Guests present were Tim Hodges, Skip Walters and volunteer station manager Gabe Vasichcek.

Rich introduced Skip Walters, the new Tuesday Midday Music host at KGPR. Skip plans to start with a Friday show on February 23, then move to Tuesdays. He plans to feature music from the 1960's: Skip and the Sixties.

Minutes from the last meeting were read. Matthias moved, Joe seconded to accept as written, motion passed.

Rich presented a budget spreadsheet. Current balances: \$17,629 in First Interstate accounts, \$49,000 in UM account. \$3000 in donations were received in January, less than the \$6,000 average Sue Ginn had reported for GFPR into the UM account. Rich reported Montana Environmental Information Coalition is a new sponsor at \$600 per year. Expenses total for January included the first half of the Broadcast Agreement payment of \$14,950, the next half being due in July. Rich reviewed other January expenses.

Vision Net was discussed. Tim Hodges noted the firewall at the studio is obsolete and needs replaced, and when an internet connection at transmitter site is installed it will require a firewall—total of two firewalls will be necessary for studio and transmitter site. Rich suggested pushing that till after the next fund drive.

Returning to the budget projection for this year: Rich stated expenses are expected to be \$78,000, projected revenue is \$82,000. Joe moved, Dan seconded to approve the budget for 2022. Tim noted February electricity was \$886, \$800 was budgeted for electricity and the cost may continue to rise. Motion passed.

The Engineering report was accepted as emailed to the executive board.

Station Manager report: Skip Walters, veteran DJ from commercial radio, will start February 23 and following Tuesday mornings. Gabe has been using his own YouTube premium account and suggested KGPR get its own to avoid someone else logging in and/or being interrupted with commercials. Dan noted there is a great deal of good content on both YouTube and Spotify. Dan moved, Diane seconded, for KGPR to obtain a YouTube premium subscription immediately. Motion passed.

Tim brought up a production/engineering topic: the recording quality of multiple Mp3 recordings can deteriorate with too many for storage space. Tim suggested using WAV files to send to Podbean. Lonnie said he currently sends MP3 files. Nothing definite was determined.

Tim asked how much should we be using GFPR in our station ID? He added he thinks our identity would be better served identifying GFPR to differentiate us from MTPR. Skip commented the most important thing is the call letters and dial location. He suggested a host can never say call letters or dial location too much.

Promotion was discussed. Lonnie will promote Skip's new show along with others on Facebook. Tim suggested getting podcasts included on listings at Apple Store and Google Play. He said it takes about 10 steps.

Long range events were discussed. It was noted the Rotary Club is planning a multi-cultural event around ethnic cultures in Great Falls for August 15th, very conceptual at this point. Rich is hoping for an early fall music event. Dan noted he had suggested Heritage Inn do an ethnic festival, in that central Montana was shaped by people from all over the world. Tim noted there is a large Philippine community in Great Falls.

Renewing membership in Great Falls Chamber of Commerce was discussed. Thomas noted if we do not have a designated person to attend chamber events we aren't taking advantage of membership. It was noted non-profits do not have to be a Chamber member to be part of the Non Profit Alliance. Joe moved, Dan seconded to renew membership in Great Falls Chamber of Commerce at the \$350 level. Mathias, Joe, Dan, Jayson and Thomas voted aye. Lonnie and Diane voted nay. Motion passed.

Old business:

Rich and Diane met with Ray Ekness and signed the Broadcast Agreement. The payment will be split between January and July. An 8.75% fee is assessed by UM for every transaction/transfer of money made to the GFRA account at First Interstate from the UM account. Past fees have been partially absorbed by MTPR. Monthly financial statements including all fees assessed were requested from Ray. Thomas noted the 8.75% fee was absurdly high. Nothing was determined with Ray regarding KGPR's listeners contributing portion of the Community Service Grant received each year by MTPR. Thomas suggested once we learn those numbers, we ask MTPR to cover our transfer fees, based on their using our population of listeners as part of their grant. Tim suggested that the Corporation for Public Broadcasting may be attempting to force consolidation of smaller stations through the grant process. He also noted the KGPR listening audience may account for about \$25,000 or \$30,000 of the MTPR Community Service Grant.

Jeremy Trebas, our accountant, will prepare IRS Form 990 for this fiscal year, ending in August, which will preserve our 501c3 status. Rich said he would email the board the 990 for approval.

Rich said he would register with Give Great Falls.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Diane Stinger, Secretary, Great Falls Public Radio Association.