

KSPS Community Advisory Board Minutes – 12/14/17

CAB members attending in person: Shaun Higgins (Chair), Becka Shelley (Vice Chair), Emily Geddes (Secretary - minutes), Vanessa Strange, Terrie Ashby-Scott, Consuelo Larrabee

Members attending by phone: Bob Morrison

Members absent: none

KSPS staff attending: Cary Balzer (Program Director), Gary Stokes (Station Manager)

Public attendees: none

Opening Business

A quorum – actually everyone! – being present, the meeting was called to order at 4:03 pm.

The minutes from the 11/9/17 meeting were approved (motion: Terrie, second: Becka). Emily will forward them to Dawn to be posted on the KSPS website, in compliance with Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) requirements, and to Linda Finney, Friends of KSPS board secretary, in compliance with the bylaws.

General Manager Report

Gary announced that the first part of federal funding has been approved and is in-house. This means that KSPS is funded through this fiscal year and next. FY2020 and beyond are still in question pending future congressional budget approval. KSPS is currently ahead on revenue and under on expenses for the first few months of this fiscal year.

Gary reported on the excellent educational outreach that Bukola Breczinski, the new Education Director has accomplished. She has made contact with virtually every educational institution in the broadcast area including universities, community colleges, and K-12 school districts. She has scheduled tours for school groups to come to the station and is developing lesson plans to present to the students.

Other successful educational initiatives include the collection of video interviews KSPS completed with Japanese Americans in conjunction with the Hifumi En Society Foundation. These videos were used by teachers around the country on December 7 to observe and teach about Pearl Harbor. Videos can be viewed at www.hifumien.org.

In addition, interns from Gonzaga University have created learning objects around several KSPS documentaries to be used in classrooms to support teachers' lessons. They will continue working on additional learning objects for a total of a dozen documentaries.

Gary addressed the recent suspensions and cancellations due to misconduct of Charlie Rose and Tavis Smiley. There has been some local viewer feedback that shows misunderstanding regarding their status as independently produced shows. Christine Amanpour is temporarily replacing Charlie Rose and we are waiting on PBS for a permanent replacement.

Gary indicated that there are many conversations happening on many different levels regarding this issue and the ensuing effects on KSPS. The KSPS employee handbook clearly delineates what behaviors are unacceptable as well as the process to express concerns and complaints. Madhulika Sikka, the new PBS Public Editor (similar to an ombudsperson), writes an informative column on pbs.org and has used several of her columns to address these recent revelations. Gary will send out a link to her columns for the CAB to review. [Edited to add link: <http://www.pbs.org/publiceditor/home/>]

Program Manager Report

Cary shared that 90-100 hours of programming has been changed to accommodate program withdrawals and replacements. Promotional spots including suspended programming also had to be replaced or adjusted.

Two new series are premiering in January. *Washington Grown's* 13 episodes will highlight products grown in the Northwest including legumes, green beans, apples, potatoes and other produce as well as local restaurants and organizations. *Samantha Brown's Places to Love* is a 13-part travel series that will air in Rick Steves' spot on Monday evenings.

PBS Kids has launched their innovative integrated game packaging combining four popular children's shows with video game learning opportunities. Additional shows will be added over the next year.

February 2018 marks the 50 anniversary of *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood*. A 90-minute pledge special will air via common carriage on March 6. Additional specials will air during the year and discussions are ongoing regarding possible local celebrations.

Cary shared examples of viewer feedback, both positive and negative, which he has received recently. For the most part, viewers have been understanding regarding the changes that have been made.

Other upcoming specials include:

- Holiday specials for *Last Tango in Halifax* (airing December 17 & 24) and *Call the Midwife* (airing December 25).
- A binge event of *Downton Abbey* to run from 10:00 a.m. on December 30 until 5:00 p.m. on January 1, 2018. This will coincide with a membership event.
- The first-ever 24-hour documentary marathon on the World channel on New Year's Eve.
- The second season of *Victoria* will begin airing January 14, 2018.
- A new series, *We'll Meet Again*, featuring Ann Curry will air on Tuesdays from January 23 through February 27.
- In recognition of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, PBS programming will include *I Am Not Your Negro* and other notable documentaries.

Other Discussion

Cary announced that the CAB application is being automated through Survey Monkey. This will simplify the application process and reduce the confusion regarding how to submit the application. He will send out a link to CAB members for approval.

Bukola Breczinski will be asked to attend the February CAB meeting.

James Albrecht dropped off his application and resume this afternoon. Shaun will scan and email it out to the CAB for review and possible electronic vote.

Other Discussion

The next CAB meeting will be held on Thursday, January 11, 2017 at 4:00 p.m. at the KSPS offices.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:27 p.m.

Action items

Shaun:

- Forward James Albrecht's application to CAB members for review and possible electronic vote.

Emily:

- Forward approved October minutes to Dawn and Linda.

Cary:

- Forward the link for the Survey Monkey version of the CAB application to CAB members.
- Invite Bukola Breczinski to attend the February CAB meeting.

All CAB members:

- Consider what kind of locally created programming would be beneficial to the community;
- Continue gathering feedback on programming from friends, family, community members;
- Continue recruiting new applicants.