

KSPS Community Advisory Board Minutes – 2/9/17

Members attending: Shaun Higgins (Chair), Katy Durning (Vice-Chair), Emily Geddes (Secretary), Becka Shelley, Terrie Ashby-Scott, Consuelo Larrabee

Members attending by phone: Bob Morrison, Marvo Reguindin

Members absent: None

KSPS staff attending: Cary Balzer (Program Director)

Public attendees: None

Opening Business

A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 4:06 pm.

The minutes from the 1/12/17 meeting were approved (motion: Consuelo, second: Emily). 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, Secretary of the Friends of KSPS board, in compliance with the bylaws.

Consuelo asked for a minor revision of the bylaws to make the capitalization of “Annual Meeting” consistent throughout. Emily will make those changes.

Also regarding the bylaws, it was agreed that the distribution of the minutes, which include the date and time of the next meeting, is sufficient notice to CAB members of Regular Meetings as required by section 4.03 of the bylaws. Any Special Meetings will require separate notification.

Program Manager Report

As Gary was not able to attend, Cary updated the CAB on the FCC spectrum auction. Stations that participated in the auction were notified on Wednesday whether their bids were accepted. Two PBS stations – one in Tampa, Florida, and one in Flint, Michigan – will be going dark in about two months. KSPS will not be repacked (i.e., channel position changed), but it is not yet known how this will affect our translators/transmitters in Washington, Idaho, and Montana.

Cary stated that Charlie Rose recently had a medical procedure that will necessitate a three- to four-week recovery. During this time, *Charlie Rose* and *Charlie Rose - The Week* will feature guest hosts.

Netflix has purchased the rights to a live-action/CGI-enhanced reboot of *The Magic School Bus*. Netflix has also optioned the rights to *Clifford the Big Red Dog* and *Goosebumps*.

Upcoming programming includes:

- *American Experience* specials *Ruby Ridge* (airing February 14) and a final encore of *Grand Coulee Dam* (April 18). Cary is awaiting confirmation that three expletives in *Ruby Ridge* will be censored. The three-part series *The Great War* will air beginning April 10. Cary has been unable to obtain Canadian content from the Canadian National Film Board, but will continue his efforts.
- *Way of the Columbia* (airing beginning April 1) is a locally-produced series (by Cutboard Studios in Liberty Lake) with 13 half-hour episodes exploring the impact of the Columbia River on the Inland Northwest and focusing on ecology. Funding was provided from multiple sources including the Army Corps of Engineers and several Native tribes. Funding is currently being sought for a second season.
- *Indian Summers – Nespelem Art Colony 1937-1941* (airing May 11) is another locally produced program, based on a book written by Jeff Creighton, a WSU professor. It runs one hour and features Clyfford Still. Cary will forward the CAB a link to view the program.

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- Two *Health Matters* programs on injury prevention (airing March 23) and autoimmune prevention (airing April 20).
- *Masterpiece* will show the final season of *Homefires* consisting of six episodes, the first premiering on April 2. Also on *Masterpiece*, *Wolf Hall* will encore beginning April 2.
- A *Nova* program titled *Holocaust Escape Tunnel* will air on April 19. Recent archaeological study has revealed a tunnel through which Lithuanian Jews living in the city of Vilnius escaped from the Nazis. There is a local connection to this story: Ken Bensimon, a resident of Colville, participated in the dig. He has offered to give a presentation at the KSPS studios on April 6.

Other Discussion

Katy raised concerns about the sensationalism in some media outlets' presentation of tragedies and events such as terrorist attacks. Discussion followed regarding the news coverage and documentaries KSPS airs related to such events. It was noted that PBS News Hour is a good example of balanced and non-sensational coverage. Cary was asked to identify any programs that might be available on the topics of media literacy and the journalistic process and report back to the CAB.

Some reports have indicated that the new administration is considering eliminating funding for the CPB. Gary previously emailed all CAB members information regarding contacting our elected officials to express concerns regarding the potential loss of federal funding. Shaun encouraged each CAB member to send individual letters to their elected officials and to share that information with friends via social media as well. It was also suggested that the CAB could draft a group letter to send to the appropriate elected officials. Talking points could include the following:

- Because KSPS serves Canadian viewers as well as American viewers, it is an export industry that provides benefits in international trade.
- Public television is an essential, local, public service that is invaluable to the elected officials' constituents, providing education, information regarding public safety, and encouraging civic awareness, participation, and leadership. It promotes community values and balanced educational programming for both children and adults.
- The CPB comprises a very small portion of the overall budget.

The next CAB meeting will be held on Thursday, March 9, 2017 at 4:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Action items

Cary:

- Forward CAB members a link to the *Indian Summer: Nespelem Art Colony* program for preview;
- Research available programs regarding media literacy and journalism.

Emily:

- Forward approved January minutes to Dawn and Linda.
- Edit bylaws to make capitalization of "Annual Meeting" consistent.

All CAB members:

- Contact your elected officials regarding the possible elimination of funding for the CPB;
- 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.