

April 13, 2023 KSPS Community Advisory Board 4pm, Zoom

CAB members attending by Zoom: James Albrecht (Chair), Bob Morrison, (Vice Chair), Consuelo Larrabee, Christopher Powell, Marianne Patton

Members Absent: Patty Crone, Shaun Higgins

KSPS/PBS personnel attending: Gary Stokes, Debbie Brennan, Skyler Reep

KSPS personnel absent: Dawn Bayman

A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 4:10 pm.

The minutes from the March 9, 2023 meeting were approved. 1st: Marianne, 2nd: James.

General Manager's Report and Discussion

- A spate of retirements is starting. Lynn Veltrie has retired, and two other members of the engineering team are nearing retirement.
- A new IT person and new master control operator have been hired.
- A new mural has been installed in the station lobby.
- PBS stations in the west are now included in the group of stations representing northern border stations. The only station missing is Seattle.
- Gary visited each of the ten schools that participated in *Civics Bowl*. The best part was seeing how much the team members are regarded as rock stars at their schools.
- Jim Zimmer will be inducted into the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences, Northwest Chapter. He will receive the silver circle award at the Emmys. The presentation should be streamed.
- The station has also submitted programs for an Emmy.

Development Report

- March was very healthy financially, only \$600 from the fundraising goal.
- Development is pacing 13% ahead of budget.

- There was slippage in Canadian donations, but that was offset by growth in sustainers.
- Door-to-door canvassing is being explored.
- PBS and NPR have joined with others for a May 1st and 2nd public media giving day. It is hoped that supporters will initiate conversations about the value of public media.

Comments/Questions:

- James asked how March compared with last year.
 - A. Donations were lower by 15%. This year's goal was conservative.
- James also asked if the station is planning to set up a table at events.
 - A. This is being evaluated. It is a good way of demonstrating commitment to the community.

Programming Director's Report and Discussion

- As of April 3rd, the three BBC news services have been merged into one and the word "World" has been dropped.
- PBS is working with the BBC on covering King Charles III's coronation along with ninety minutes to two hours of highlights. Buckingham Palace controls the rights.
- *Civics Bowl* was a success.
- Season 10 of *Father Brown* will be released to PBS on May 25th.
- *Tom Jones*, a big-hearted romantic comedy, will be aired starting on April 30th.
- *Celebrating Fifty Years of Broadway* will air on May 12th.
- "Wild Scandinavia" on *Nature* is coming and will feature a base jump off cliffs.
- The national Memorial Day tribute will be May 28th.
- Pledge starts again in June. Pledge is still important and the station is making sure its goals are realistic.

Comments/Questions:

- James asked if, with a growing population, the station can expect more pledges and more members.
 - A. PBS is working with stations to figure out how to monetize Passport. How to get Pledge on Passport needs to be worked out.
- Marianne asked if we will lose the mission if Passport becomes just a place for good mysteries? How can we strengthen the mission on Passport, in particular for the news?
 - A. The goal is to convert people to the mission. Specific targets have been set for increasing membership. We have lots of content and need to develop it without driving people off Passport.

Around-the-table comments

- Chris
 - His wife has been enjoying *Sister Boniface* and is looking forward to the new *Father Brown*.
 - Enjoyed *Civics Bowl* so much. Civics isn't taught in Canada. Is it a series of courses?
 - A. Yes, a series throughout high school. There are still hundreds of *Civics Bowl* questions not asked and new ones to be developed.
 - Students from Liberty School prepared for *Civics Bowl* by viewing all episodes from the first season.
 - Where can he find details on the civics courses?
 - A. Gary will look into it.
 - Loved the Joni Mitchel Gershwin Prize show.
 - “The Movement and the Madman” was a real treat. Blown away by the accuracy and the experts they interviewed.
 - “America and the Taliban” was a brilliant show, but its hard not to be cynical about what happened.
- Consuelo
 - Haven't been watching a lot
- Bob
 - We continue to enjoy *Call the Midwife*.
 - *The Picture Taker* about Ernest Withers was great.

- Enjoyed “Dogs in the Wild,” “The American Diplomat,” “The Movement and the Madman,” and – on Passport – *Il Paradiso* and *Love, Inevitably*.
- The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band show was commercial, not interesting.
- Missed the end of *The Ghost Writer* (on tape) because the introduction was too long.
- Marianne
 - The documentary on Anthony Fauci was wonderful.
 - Enjoyed the Pia Toscano and Daniel Emmet special.
 - *Inland Sessions* is wonderful.
 - A great fan of *American Experience*.
 - Enjoyed *Winning the Vote* – very humbling, *Escape from Dunkirk* – excellent, and the *Nature* show on hummingbirds.
 - Proud of the *Civics Bowl* production team.
- James
 - Enjoyed *Nova* on weathering climate, *Coastal Britain*, *Born in the Rockies*, and *La Frontera*. It was interesting to see how many Chinese ended up in Mexicali.
 - *Earth Shot*: Turned it off.
 - *Cross Creek*: Arriving with one suitcase, where did all the furniture and clothes come from?
 - *Stampede City Sessions*: Found it interesting that country music in Canada is the same as in the U.S.
 - *Antiques Roadshow*: How many more things can they create from old shows?
 - A. *Roadshow* is back to going to places. It has been surprisingly good at sharing the wealth. The logistics are incredible, everything is down to Swiss watch precision.

Comments/Questions:

- Marianne noted that Marcia Coyle, PBS’s Supreme Court reporter, will be interviewed at Duke University on April 27th.

- Judy Woodruff will be coming to Spokane in May for one day. She will go to the Community School. Most tickets are gone.

New Business

- None

Old Business

- None

The meeting was adjourned at 5:18 p.m. The next CAB meeting will be held on Thursday, May 11, 2023 at 4 p.m.