

WTTW COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD

MINUTES of the PUBLIC MEETING of the
WTTW Community Advisory Board (CAB)

Tuesday, December 14, 2021

Electronic Meeting via Zoom

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:07 PM with a quorum present.

The following CAB members were present: Chairman Joseph Morris (Chair); Vice Chairman Susan Ivers (Vice Chair); Secretary Rita Tandaric; Charles Beavers; Maryilene Blondell; Leatrice Campbell; Barbara Cragan; Dr. Simuel Hampton; Carol Howe; Douglas Johnson; Peter Kraus; Aaron Lawler; Sinhue Mendoza; Lennette Meredith; Sharon Meroni; Mary Lou Mockus; Kristin Mount; Janice Phillips; Frederic Rizzo; Iqbal Shariff; Nancy Simon; and Chester Szerlag.

Note the following CAB members were absent: Thomas Herzberg; Linda Jackson; and Dr. Sheila Wicks.

The following persons also were present: David Blowers, Chairman of the Board of Trustees; Sandra Cordova Micek, President and CEO of WWCI; Graham C. Grady, Board of Trustees Liaison to CAB; Timothy Russell, Vice President of Community Engagement and Diversity, Equity & Inclusion; and Lisa Tipton, Head of Programming and Pledge.

The following members of the public were present: None.

The Chair asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Ms. Phillips so moved, seconded by Ms. Mockus. The agenda was adopted unanimously.

The Chair noted that no members of the public were present therefore no comments were heard.

The Chair introduced David C. Blowers, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of WTTW since last year. He follows in a line of Chairmen, including Newton Minow, Norman Bobbins, and the late Jim Mabie a long line of civic-minded individuals who have devoted energy, labor, and treasure to WTTW, and for which the CAB is grateful. Mr. Blowers has asked for time to address the CAB. Mr. Blowers thanked the Chair and noted that the Trustees also invite the public to attend Trustees' meetings, with little attendance, but it is important to extend the invitations.

Mr. Blowers began by recognizing his colleague, Graham Grady, who has served as Trustee representative to the CAB for the last three years. Mr. Grady is in high demand around town, and has recently joined an outside board and is a busy man. He has done an outstanding job as a representative to the CAB, and this will be his last meeting in that capacity. Mr. Blowers explained that he wanted to thank Mr. Grady personally and publicly for

his service. Mr. Grady humbly thanked Mr. Blowers, then thanked Mr. Blowers for his strong leadership. Mr. Grady then addressed the Chair and the CAB members, stating that the care and concern and the love poured into the work done by the CAB is truly remarkable and quite inspiring. Mr. Grady then thanked Mr. Russell and Ms. Tipton for their work as management liaisons to the CAB, particularly for work done between the meetings. Mr. Grady then wished all Happy Holidays.

Mr. Blowers again thanked Mr. Grady and then explained that the new Board liaison to the CAB will consist of Sandra Cordova Micek, President and CEO of WWCI, who is also a formal member of the Board of Trustees, along with Ms. Micek's WTTW leadership team, including Anne Gleason, Tim Russell, and Lisa Tipton. Mr. Blowers also plans to occasionally attend, and hopes that in-person meetings will be possible sometime soon.

The Chair asked to clarify Mr. Blowers' statement, that Mr. Grady will be replaced as liaison to the CAB by not only another trustee, but a trustee who also serves as President and CEO of the organization. The Chair exclaimed that this change is quite remarkable.

Ms. Micek interjected that, yes, she will be replacing Mr. Grady as the Trustees' liaison to the CAB, but that she will need the support of her leadership team, and that the liaison duties will be split with the Mr. Russell, Ms. Tipton, and the rest of her leadership team. Ms. Micek gave her commitment to keep up on what is happening with the CAB. The Chair stated that it is quite a compliment to the CAB to have such a remarkable liaison from the Board.

The Chair again thanked Mr. Grady, who stepped in three years ago, and immediately opened communications with the CAB, faithfully attended all meetings, and has contributed to discussions with great cordiality, comedy, and courtesy, but stepped back when necessary to respect the independence of the CAB. Mr. Grady has helped with suggestions, and has been available to the Chair between CAB meetings for advice and to keep the flow of communications open. Mr. Grady has been a fabulous colleague and the CAB will miss him. The Chair noted that Mr. Grady is a splendid lawyer and public citizen, and has brought that background to the CAB, and the CAB is grateful. Plus, Mr. Grady is "just one really nice guy." The Chair again expressed his thanks. Mr. Grady was moved by the tribute, and thanked the Chair for his leadership of the CAB, commenting that the Chair has a broad ranging group of CAB members who bring broad perspectives, different experiences, and backgrounds, and that the Chair does a wonderful job in a very democratic fashion of caring, organizing and leading the CAB.

Mr. Blowers stated that Ms. Micek would be explaining company updates, but first Mr. Blowers reported that WTTW had recently received three regional EMMY Awards from the Chicago/Midwest chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. The first was for outstanding achievement for a public affairs program series for "Chicago Tonight," which, at the time, was led by Senior Supervising Producer, Jay Smith; Senior Line Producer, Nicole Cardos; Line Producer, Crystin Immel; Co-Hosts and Correspondents, Brandis Friedman, and Paris Schutz; and Correspondent, Amanda Vinicky. The second award was for outstanding achievement in a documentary program-historical for "Ida B. Wells – a Chicago Stories Special;" Dan Protes, Executive Producer; Stacey Robinson, Producer; and Yasmin Rammohan, Associate Producer. The third award was for outstanding craft achievement for lighting to WTTW Tom Godar, Designer/Gaffer for "Chicago Stories." As an aside, Mr. Blowers added that at a development meeting the Board heard about Dan Protes' work on new installments

of “Chicago Stories” that will air in the spring, and continue the exploration of Chicago history. Additionally, WTTW’s Phil Ponce was part of a select group inducted into the National Association of Television Arts and Sciences’ Silver Circle, a prestigious honor that recognizes professionals who have made significant contributions to the television industry and the community for 25 years or more. The organization is proud of these tremendous achievements.

Mr. Blowers then commented on the organization’s diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives, which continues to be a focus in all work. In addition to the establishment of the Board of Trustees’ REDI Committees (Race Equity Diversity and Inclusion), chaired by Trustee James Wooten, each committee of the Board of Trustees has a representative on the REDI Committee. The work of the REDI Committee is taken back to the nine Board committees, so that each Board committee can develop its own goals relating to diversity, equity, and inclusion, which is front and center on all agendas across the organization. The Board of Trustees is particularly proud of this initiative and believes it is ahead of others in this area. The board and the leadership team have been focused on this for a while. Everyone is committed and sees this as a journey being taken together. The Board just finished a three-part education session with inclusion strategist and coach, Amber Cabral. Ms. Cabral was brought to the Board through Ms. Micek’s involvement at the national PBS level. Ms. Cabral conducted the training for the national board. Each of the three sessions was very well attended, and each staff and Board member was provided with Ms. Cabral’s book, Allies and Advocates. It was a journey that everyone took together.

The Chair commented he promptly acquired and read Ms. Cabral’s book upon learning that the Board had engaged her as a consultant. The Chair further stated that the CAB members also received the book in the pre-Christmas gift package from the station. He added that the CAB members received two gift packages – the first being food for the stomach, and the second, food for the brain. The Chair noted that the CAB has established its own DEI committee which is about to get its legs and start work. The CAB intends to read the Cabral book and develop a reading list of other materials so that it can continue engagement with management and the Board on these topics going forward. The Chair thanked management and the Board for thinking of the CAB members and providing copies of the Cabral book.

Mr. Blowers commented that Ms. Cabral conducted training for the WTTW and WFMT staff members, and noted that Ms. Cabral’s services “do not come cheap.” A series of very generous trustees covered the cost of Ms. Cabral’s services to educate the internal diversity committee at the station, as well as the Board’s training. This shows the deep commitment to the issue.

Mr. Blowers continued, explaining that the organization had a strong end to its fiscal year on June 30 (2021), and a strong beginning to the new fiscal year, despite the uncertainties of the pandemic. Fundraising continues to be strong and positive, and Mr. Blowers takes great pride in this. Further, he exclaimed that the leadership team is extraordinary. Mr. Blowers believes that the community of viewers and listeners believes in and relies upon the content provided, perhaps now more now than ever, and added that Newt Minow told him, at the first Board meeting attended by Ms. Micek, that the most important asset is not on the books, the balance sheet of WWCI, but rather it is the trust that the community has in WWCI and the reputation that it enjoys. Mr. Blowers believes that during these challenging times, the community has understood, appreciated, and

recognized this important work and continues its loyal support. For this, Mr. Blowers is forever grateful. Mr. Blowers concluded his remarks and welcomed Ms. Micek's report.

The Chair answered that the CAB would love to respond to Mr. Blowers' remarks and pose questions, but suggested that the meeting proceed to hear Ms. Micek's presentation first and then engage in conversation. The Chair welcomed Ms. Micek and expressed the CAB's honor to have her in attendance. The Chair noted that in his years with the CAB the station has had two presidents (Secretary's note: Mr. Dan Schmidt and Ms. Micek), and until Ms. Micek joined the organization, no one at WWCI paid much attention to the Community Advisory Board. Ms. Micek has treated the CAB with great respect, and this respect is mutual, and the Chair believes that it has been a very productive relationship, which is now going to a higher level. The CAB is delighted and happy to welcome Ms. Micek back to a CAB meeting. The Chair gave the floor to Ms. Micek.

Ms. Micek thanked the Chair and the CAB membership for their commitment and service to the Community Advisory Board and echoed Mr. Blowers' thanks to Mr. Grady in his roles as trustee and liaison to the CAB. Ms. Micek also thanked Mr. Blowers for his leadership and commitment and support of the CAB.

Ms. Micek stated that in this meeting she intends to give a sense of what is happening at the station, how the station is doing, what is in the works, a view into the priorities PBS priorities and how WTTW works with PBS. Ms. Micek noted that she has joined the PBS board just over a year ago. Ms. Micek reminded the CAB of Mr. Blowers' comments about the station's fiscal success and added that that it was a "somewhat unexpectedly good year." The success was unexpected because of the COVID situation and the related uncertainty. The success was due to the support of its members, and the dedication and commitment of the staff. The team has done an amazing job across all departments – production, news, marketing and digital fundraising, community engagement, programming, and engineering. Across the board, it has been outstanding, especially in unusual circumstances. Every organization has had to pivot. Ms. Micek again stated that the team did an unbelievably remarkable job. The team continues to adjust to remote work and the station remains closed to outside guests until further notice to protect those who must work in the building. Not everyone can work remotely, as the on-air talent and production people must work in the building.

Ms. Micek further stated that the organization continues to be audience-driven and truly being where the people are. The station is multi-platform, such as streaming, and can be found on a mobile phone, including all the digital newsletters, whether on the drama or news side. The organization continues to be where the audience wants it to be, and that continues to be important.

In addition to streaming live and on demand WTTW and PBS content, the station recently started to place its content on YouTube TV. One month after a program's premiere on in-house platforms, that content is made available on YouTube TV. The more distribution the better.

Ms. Micek stated that the recent Emmy awards were incredible and validating, especially in this year just ended, where WTTW was in the neighborhoods reporting during the critical time. Ms. Micek also commented on the recent Emmy awards, particularly the one for "Ida B. Wells," such an important story in Chicago's history. Ms. Micek expressed hopes that everyone saw the premiere of "Beyond Chicago from the Air" with Geoffrey Baer, which built on the innovation from the prior year, in which "Chicago from the Air" was filmed entirely by drone

since people could not go into the field. This year, based on the success of the previous year, resulted in going further afield, and again by drone.

Ms. Micek also mentioned the premiere of “Inventing Improv,” which is another uniquely Chicago story, and the digital first production, “FIRSTHAND,” the most recent installment being “Living in Poverty. Ms. Micek explained that the online traction is incredible. There have been 904,000 views to-date. Other examples of digital engagement include “Chicago by L” with 631,000 views since its premiere in April 2021. “Chicago Fire” has had about 200,000 views since April. It is important to have the on-air premiere, but the long tail of digital continues to build these franchises and programs.

Ms. Micek hopes that everyone is watching the community conversations, specifically “Chicago Tonight Black Voices” and “Chicago Tonight Latino Voices,” which are alternated every month. Tim Russell’s group works in partnership with News to put on the community conversations, usually the last Thursday of each month. In January, “Chicago Tonight Black Voices” will be discussing Emmitt Till and how the issues are still relevant and powerful in our community, and it is a conversation that needs to continue.

Ms. Micek talked about upcoming “Chicago Stories” productions: The Union Stockyards; The Madmen of Chicago and the birth of icons like Tony the Tiger; Downtown Disasters, including the Loop Flood and the Iroquois Theater fire; Jane Byrne; the Our Lady of Guadalupe parish and its losses in Viet Nam; and Gospel Music and its birth in Chicago. These are exciting productions from an historical perspective. Dan Protes is the executive producer with oversight from Geoffrey Baer. There will also be a second season of the “Great Chicago Quiz Show,” which is an entertaining quiz show featuring conversations between local contestants and Geoffrey Baer, and which was born out of a need for innovation during COVID. The contestants appear via Zoom, and it worked well.

Ms. Micek updated the CAB on the refurbishment of Studio B and noted that as the result of fundraising and major donors, improvements are being made to the “Chicago Tonight” studio, the control and audio rooms. This is a real investment in regular programming and studio productions.

Ms. Micek also reiterated the focus on DEI, and expressed her hope that the CAB members would get a chance to read Amber Cabral’s book. Ms. Micek commented that DEI was a part of the strategic plan from the beginning as DEI was woven in as a priority and a critical part of the plan.

As to the strategic plan, Ms. Micek noted that this is Year 2 of the 3-Year plan. The strategic plan continues to be the North Star. She stated that the test of a good strategic plan is when you have an unexpected situation, a crisis, and one returns to the plan and finds that it is still relevant and it can still guide a direction, then you know you have a solid plan. Management has continued to look at the strategic plan looking for confirmation that the direction is correct or for areas that need improvement. Ms. Micek stated that they will take a hard look at the plan in the first half of 2022, focusing on any refinements that should be made as the end of the 3-Year plan approaches.

Ms. Micek then addressed PBS’ priorities. As a PBS board member, Ms. Micek has a good sense of the PBS focus and priorities. PBS continues to focus on streaming across all platforms. PBS initiated the YouTube deal, and

that is doing well for WTTW. Additionally, WTTW is achieving increased distribution through the PBS partnerships under the general audience area.

PBS has a new programming lead. Her name is Sylvia Bug, and PBS is shoring up the team in key programming areas, including PBS Learning Media, editorial program scheduling, digital studios, and operations. Cognizant that this is a unique moment in time, there is a great focus on the general audience and on “meeting the moment.” Diversity is important, content that is distinctive. Priority content areas highlighted by PBS include climate and the role of news in democracy, which Ms. Micek noted is a subject near and dear to the Chair’s heart. Ms. Micek and the Chair share the belief that the role that news plays in our democracy in terms of an informed citizenry, the arts, social justice, and even health, given the COVID situation and other aspects of health as well. Obviously, DEI continues to be a top priority for PBS. PBS has hired Cecilia Loving as the new head of DEI. She has been in the position for about two months, and is still getting up to speed, but is also sharing her vision.

PBS will have a new Board chair as the current chair is stepping down. The new chair will be Larry Irving, who is a Northwestern graduate and involved in the alumni association. Everyone is excited about the new chair.

There will be a new Ken Burns film in 2022, about an historical figure. The subject has not yet been announced.

The Chair thanked Ms. Micek and Mr. Blowers. To maximize time and efficiency the Chair suggested that he begin with his thoughts and questions, open the floor to other CAB members and then hear responses from Ms. Micek and Mr. Blowers. The Chair started by predicting that the Vice Chair would comment on the appointment of Larry Irving as PBS Chairman as she has history with Mr. Irving and has a positive impression of him. It is always good to see good news from PBS.

The Chair further commented on Mr. Blowers’ mention of Newt Minow and his commentary on trust. The Chair expressed that trust has been put to the test in the past year, and that, in the Chair’s opinion, WTTW and its management have passed the test.

The Chair continued by referring to the problem in the News Department and stating that the CAB was still sorting through its views in its typical manner by seeking outside professional and academic experts to inform the CAB, as occurred several years ago when the CAB considered the issue of WTTW’s news standards. The CAB has met with Carol Marin, who brought her perspective as an alum of WTTW and a professional expert, but also now as an academic expert in the ethics of journalism. The CAB has not yet prepared its report setting forth its views on the matter. A couple themes emerge, and one which we credit you with is taking decisive action. The CAB is also impressed with the fact that the news standards that are so dear to the CAB played a role in guiding the behavior of the members of the News Department staff, as well as the actions of management. Staff and management consulted the news standard, which provided guidance in standards of conduct in a difficult and vexing situation. It was in the context of a difficult situation that the CAB studied the news standards several years ago. In the same way the strategic plan is a North Star to Management, the news standards are meant to guide in a time of crisis. The Chair also commended management on the recent announcement of Jay Smith’s appointment as News Director; the appointment rings the bell of trust for those who know Jay and have seen his work over the years going back to the Callaway era on the production staff of “Chicago Tonight.”

The Chair continued, stating that the News Department, as reformed, is a broader department, and the resolution of the crisis, in the Chair's view and as a consensus, if not unanimity, among the CAB members, shows a serious undertaking on the part of the station to earn and retain the trust of the viewing public.

The Chair further stated that it is clear that management and the trustees are investing a great deal of time and attention in DEI issues. The Chair further stated that there is serious thought among the CAB members that with any major movement, consideration must be given to which problems are intended to be solved, what unintended consequences might result, and what moral and ethical considerations attach. The CAB does not want to have blind and uninformed conversations, so it is developing its own reading and discussion plan so that the CAB may participate in a conversation with management and the trustees on these themes in a spirit of respect, comity, rationality, and common purpose. The CAB members will read the Cabral book, and other materials suggested by WTTW management, or by CAB members to have a robust discussion over the course of the year.

The Chair further noted that the CAB is excited to hear that the strategic plan will be reviewed, revised, and updated. At first announcement of a strategic planning process, the CAB, led by current Vice Chair Susan Ivers, formed a special action committee, and provided management with suggestions for the initial strategic plan. The Chair thinks that the CAB may do something similar in anticipation of management's review of the plan for the next multi-year cycle. The Chair expressed hope that management will welcome the CAB's well-considered thoughts on the strategic planning process.

The Chair turned to the Vice Chair for her comments.

The Vice Chair thanked Ms. Micek and Mr. Blowers for joining the current CAB meeting, and explained her applause at the mention of Larry Irving as PBS Chairman. She explained that Mr. Irving mentored the Vice Chair in a fellowship she did (in the late 1980s) with the then-House Subcommittee on Telecommunications and Policy, then chaired by then-Rep. Edward Markey, in recognition of the 20th anniversary of the Public Broadcasting Act. The Vice Chair has staying in touch with Mr. Irving ever since, and described him as "an incredible person." She also stated that she looks forward to his chairmanship and predicts that his chairmanship will be referred to in the coming years as the "Irving Era" of PBS leadership. Ms. Micek responded that Mr. Irving was involved with the PBS Board for a time, rolled off, and is now back, and that those who have collaborated with him in the past are happy to have him back. Ms. Ivers explained that Mr. Irving often comes to Chicago as he is involved at Northwestern, and that he has recently joined the board of the newly reconstituted Second City. Ms. Micek commented Mr. Irving should be apprised of the "Inventing Improv" program. The Vice Chair answered that she had done so. Ms. Micek thanked the Vice Chair for being an ambassador from WTTW to the PBS Board.

The Vice Chair then asked, considering additional fundraising success, about the plans for those funds.

Ms. Micek answered that there was not necessarily an increase in fundraising, but WTTW has received funding for specific needs, such as upgrading the control and audio rooms, and studio refurbishment. The previous year was extremely hard to predict. The members stayed with WTTW, stayed loyal, and continued to watch. The station hopes to have a successful year this year, but things remain unpredictable. Nevertheless, management

remains optimistic. The “Chicago Stories” projects previously mentioned would not have been possible without key funding. The same statement applies to other Geoffrey Baer projects, and everything else that comes up. Such would not be possible without member support, major donor support, and corporate support.

The Chair noted that Ms. Mockus and Mr. Szerlag were in queue for questions and further noted that the meeting had been joined by two members of the public: Norma J. Sutton, a former CAB member, and Christopher Eyo. Ms. Micek explained that she and Mr. Blowers must leave the meeting at 7:00 PM.

The Chair called upon Ms. Mockus, who expressed her joy that senior management and the Board of Trustees are taking a very sincere and active interest in the work the CAB does. Ms. Mockus explained that she is a long-time member of the CAB, and that it is most gratifying to see the CAB being taken seriously and now enjoying a sense of partnership with management and the Board of Trustees. Ms. Mockus further stated that she thinks management and the Board of Trustees can judge that there is a sincere effort and interest to participate on the part of the CAB members and the CAB appreciates the management and Board interest in the CAB’s efforts. The CAB members also appreciate Chairman Morris’ leadership. Ms. Mockus believes that we need to recognize and acknowledge the role Chairman Morris has played in focusing the CAB on serious issues and in elevating the standards and performance of the CAB to the degree that management and The Board of Trustees have taken notice.

Ms. Micek thanked Ms. Mockus.

Ms. Mockus continued, congratulating Ms. Micek on the success and creativity, with which management has approached the COVID situation, as we can only imagine the tenacity and effort it took to make everything look normal on the air. The CAB thanks you for the resourcefulness and enthusiasm across the organization which will result in interesting productions.

The Chair called upon Mr. Szerlag, who complimented Ms. Micek and her leadership team. Ms. Szerlag downloaded the financial results after waiting to see how 2021 ended up, and he was “blown away” at the numbers. He further stated that if this were a publicly traded company, he would be buying stock. He added that it is nice to see assets go up and liabilities go down. Let us see if we can repeat that for 2022.

Ms. Micek thanked Mr. Szerlag, and stated that assets up and liabilities down must be credited to the entire team because it is not just the job of the CFO, or fundraisers. It is the job of every single person. It involves managing costs and choosing the correct areas to be invested in during unpredictable times. She credited the entire team because it was a team effort. As to 2022, it is still an unpredictable time.

The Chair called upon Mr. Kraus. Mr. Kraus asked Ms. Micek if there is any research into looking at the differences between mainstream media audiences and alternative media audiences. Mr. Kraus believes that there may be a differentiation between the two types of audiences. Mr. Kraus also noted an alternative media source in a website called Bitshoot.com. Mr. Kraus thinks that what is true is that the perspectives there and the sources of information are wider and more diverse than what is coming across through the public television sources. Mr. Kraus wanted to alert Ms. Micek to this subject and the possibility that that resource, in terms of the health and medical topics section, might be a source for different perspectives on health issues that society is confronting now.

Ms. Micek responded that she was not familiar with that source, but stated that WTTW would look and determine whether there might be white space to learn more about certain content areas. Ms. Micek thanked Mr. Kraus. Mr. Blowers interjected that Ms. Micek may want to share the information with PBS to see if PBS has any intelligence on the source. Ms. Micek agreed.

The Chair asked Ms. Micek if she had any responses to the comments/questions posed by the Vice Chair, Ms. Mockus, Mr. Szerlag and Mr. Kraus.

Ms. Micek responded that she appreciates the seriousness with which the CAB takes the strategic planning process. She had previously mentioned to the CAB that the focus on gun violence was prompted by the CAB. This influence includes *FIRSTHAND: Gun Violence* and related topics covered on “Chicago Tonight.” Ms. Micek encouraged anyone who has not seen the series to stream it. It is not the goal of management to blow up the strategic plan and start over, but refine it where necessary, consider where tweaks and adjustments given the issues in our society and culture on which WTTW should focus. Ms. Micek will look forward to CAB input.

Mr. Blowers concurred on the thoughtfulness with which the CAB approaches the business and the newsroom, and it will be incorporated in the refresh of the strategic plan. Mr. Blowers stated that the CAB’s description of the newsroom situation was perfectly outlined and that he would add nothing to it. He underscored the speed and firm-mindedness with which Ms. Micek and the team approached the issues. Ms. Micek talks about the organization broadly, and the organization is fortunate to have her as its leader.

Mr. Blowers expressed his delight at being with the CAB at this meeting, and thanked the CAB members for their contributions and work on the Community Advisory Board. He expressed hope of meeting the CAB again soon and wished everyone a safe and happy holiday season and New Year.

Ms. Micek interjected that before jumping off she wanted to give a special thanks to Tim Russell and Lisa Tipton because they do an outstanding job in keeping Mr. Blowers, the rest of the leadership team and Ms. Micek informed of the goings on with the Community Advisory Board. She explained that they are a great and committed team.

The Chair thanked Ms. Micek for placing Mr. Russell and Ms. Tipton with the CAB.

The Chair returned to the agenda and the meeting minutes of August 17, 2021, which were circulated today. The Chair asked for a motion to approve the minutes. The Chair assured the CAB members that both he and the Vice Chair had reviewed the minutes, and the minutes presented have been corrected, as necessary. The Chair asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Beavers so moved, seconded by Ms. Mockus. The minutes of August 17, 2021, were approved unanimously.

The minutes of October 19, 2021, were deferred to the next meeting.

Chairman’s Statement: The desire on the parts of the Chairman of the Board of Trustees and the President of the company to meet with the CAB at this meeting changed the structure and agenda for the meeting. The Chair thought that the meeting changed for the better and that it was a fabulous way to end the year, hearing their

perspectives on the operation of the company and on the relations between the trustees and management on one hand and the CAB on the other. The year has ended on a very upbeat note.

The Chair thanked Ms. Mockus for her kind words, and noted that such support is characteristic of this board. What characterizes the CAB members in meetings and offline discussions by email and telephone, and so forth, is a high level of rational civil courteous discourse. A diverse board, and perhaps not diverse enough in that the members do not cover the entire geographic footprint of the WTTW service area, but the members are ethnically, religiously, racially, politically, and culturally, a truly diverse group of people. The members treat each other with respect, and a little respect and humility go a long way and can achieve great results. The Chair is grateful for all that the CAB has been able to achieve. There are a couple issues pending. One is the updated consideration of news matters that began with the News Committee's discussion with Carol Marin, referenced earlier in the meeting. The committee has a bit more work to do and the Chair, also Chair of the News Committee, pledged to move the committee into the next phases of its work. To that end, the Chair has asked station management to arrange to have Jay Smith, WTTW's News Director, available for a CAB meeting early in the new year. Mr. Russell has stated that Mr. Smith could attend in February or April, depending on whether the CAB will use the February meeting, as in many years past, for an open full board discussion with WWCI President and CEO Sandra Cordova Micek about issues on her plate and big picture issues. The Chair commented that the nature of a conversation with Ms. Micek in February may not be the typical once a year wrap up kind of conversation. The Chair will discuss this with Mr. Russell, Ms. Tipton and with Ms. Micek in the coming weeks about whether to devote the February meeting to a big picture discussion with her or to plow ahead and get on into the agenda with Jay Smith and talk about the current state of the news Department.

The Chair considered that it might be worthwhile to talk with Mr. Smith it will certainly inform the work that our News Committee has been doing in the wake of the last year's change in leadership and the bit of controversy that led to Mr. Smith's promotion. The Chair thinks that there are other things that the CAB will want to put on the plate for 2022. Ms. Tandaric this morning circulated the news report about the change in the engineering Department for WWCI, affecting both WTTW and WFMT, and that recalls the fact that the CAB has not looked in several, perhaps four, years, seriously at the technology side of the work of the company, which is clearly important. We cannot deliver services to the people of Chicago land unless the technology is serving with maximum efficiency and accuracy, the business of getting the news and programming disseminated to them and what happens in the engineering field, the engineering Department, what happens in the evolution of technology is as important to the success of the station as what happens in finances, and I think I will commend to Chad Szerlag in the station administration and finance committee, perhaps over the course of the year, having a look at what's going on in engineering and technology with a view toward having an informed conversation with the people who are responsible for that part of the company.

Finally, one little bit of internal CAB housekeeping, which is, thanks to the request of Tim Russell to have everyone on the CAB update personal contact information, including postal addresses, telephone numbers, as well as the email that then CAB currently has on file. The Chair requested that Mr. Russell ask someone on his staff to put together an updated spreadsheet, to facilitate communication between and among CAB members. The Chair has the updated spreadsheet he will circulate it to CAB members. The Chair reminded everyone that the spreadsheet contains sensitive information for every CAB member. Therefore, the list is not to be shared

with anyone outside the CAB membership or WTTW management and staff. It must not to be used for any commercial or political purpose whatsoever, and stated that all should treat it with the care with which each expects his or her personal information to be treated. This information is provided so that CAB members can communicate freely with one another, whether by phone or online, or to meet face-to-face as sometimes occurs. The Chair trusts everyone to be respectful.

The Chair called upon the Vice Chair for her report or comments.

The Vice Chair hoped that this item is already on everyone's calendars: the annual broadcast of "A Charlie Brown Christmas," which will be aired on Sunday, December 19. The Vice Chair also wished everyone a happy holiday season and a great New Year.

The Chair thanked the Vice Chair and called upon Ms. Mount for the Programming Committee report.

Programming Committee: Ms. Mount noted that she has compiled the program comments from the past weeks, and reminded members that comments need not be held until just before the next CAB meeting, but may be sent at any time between meetings and such comments will be compiled along the way to the next meeting. Ms. Mount also thanked those who submitted comments in advance of the current meeting. The document is self-explanatory.

The Programming Committee received a proposal a while ago, and it has been revised once or twice. The proposal is from Dr. Hampton, and was distributed to CAB members today. Ms. Mount asked for questions on the program comments, and if none, was prepared to give the floor to Dr. Hampton for the discussion of his program proposal.

The Chair interjected that from a parliamentary point of view the committee has put the Hampton proposal onto the table for action that is treated as having been moved and seconded, so the debate is now open on the Hampton proposal. The Chair called upon Dr. Hampton to lead the discussion on his proposal.

Dr. Hampton thanked the Chair and Ms. Mount.

Before getting into the specific proposal, Dr. Hampton gave an overview of the Education Committee report as there are a couple connecting themes. One is the focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion, which is very consistent with the station and the Board of Trustees' initiatives as well as those of the newly formed CAB committee. Another recurring theme is that the programs and educational initiatives are aimed at increasing exposure of various professions to young people, where those professions are seeing a decrease or a lack of people to fill positions, and to help to create a pipeline of talent and diversity in these professions. The program proposal concerns the Sisters in Cinema program, and the basic proposal seeks to highlight a Chicago nonprofit that is focused on educating and celebrating African American women and media makers.

The proposal has been in the works for a while, with work having been interrupted by the arrival of the Hamptons' first child. Dr. Hampton stated that the delay was beneficial as there have been changes in the Sisters in Cinema organization in terms of growth and increased programming. Dr. Hampton explained that when he started looking at the organization it, the focus was helping women and gender non-conforming people learn

the basics of news reporting. One of the programs was a six-week program where participants explored topics such as news reporting, interviewing basics, and story promotion. Since then and after the initial proposal submission Dr. Hampton was encouraged to go back to the Sisters in Cinema and its website to look at things that had been added. The organization has created a documentary fellowship program that provides \$5,000 development grants, again, for documentary filmmakers to help promote their projects. It provides mentorships for these people who are producing these documentaries. The organization is also constructing a media center which will host educational programming, editing laboratories, and provide workshops for people who are interested in producing all manners of media.

Dr. Hampton sees this as a public interest story; a contact for the station could be the business development coordinator. The local appeal centers on what is happening in reporting today: disinformation and removal of journalists in cable news outlets. Dr. Hampton believes that there is a great need for high quality journalists with integrity. Sisters in Cinema's programs would be an excellent topic for WTTW to highlight. Sisters in Cinema could be a source of additional programming for WTTW.

The Chair thanked Dr. Hampton. The Chair then explained that the issue before the CAB is whether to adopt the Hampton proposal on programming involving the Sisters in Cinema program, the proposal having been embraced by the Programming Committee and set forth for adoption by the full CAB as a recommendation to be sent to management for its consideration. The Chair asked if there was any additional discussion to undertake on the Sisters in Cinema proposal which has been advanced and developed by Dr. Hampton and now proposed by the Programming Committee.

The Vice Chair stated that she has been following Sisters in Cinema via social media and that she is impressed with the organization. The executive director of Sisters in Cinema is the moving force behind the expansion of its programs, as well as at least one foundation grant that the organization has received. The Vice Chair believed the amount of the grant to be \$25,000. It is a sound organization, despite just starting out. The executive director is known and respected by those in the documentary field across the country.

The Chair asked for any further discussion on the programming proposal. Mr. Kraus asked Dr. Hampton to clarify the comment about the removal of journalists, specifically if journalists are losing their jobs or that something else is occurring.

Dr. Hampton cited Chris Cuomo of CNN either being reassigned or fired from CNN as ethical concerns were raised in connection with off-air political activities. Dr. Hampton mentioned situations at Fox News regarding workplace cultural issues. Dr. Hampton also cited the issue with WTTW's former new director. Dr. Hampton further stated that ethics, character issues and integrity are subject of focus today. Sisters in Cinema is an organization that will hopefully provide a more robust pipeline of qualified journalists who understand their ethical responsibilities.

Ms. Campbell stated that the CAB earlier in the year approved a proposal by Dr. Hampton about the Chicago Youth Choir which was covered in a program on WTTW. She did not see the entire piece, but was impressed to see that something brought forth by Dr. Hampton and approved by the CAB, made it to the air. Ms. Campbell thanked everyone involved.

The Chair stated that it is wonderful to see that both Dr. Hampton and the CAB have had impacts in programming. The Chair called upon Mr. Shariff, who commented that he thinks Dr. Hampton's proposal is a wonderful idea and added that academics, when presenting papers, always provide full disclosure, and seemed to say that the same standards should apply in journalism.

Mr. Szerlag liked Dr. Hampton's proposal but stated that he was not clear on what the CAB will be asking WTTW to do with the proposal and how to act on it. What will the CAB be asking of WTTW management? The Chair asked Ms. Mount to field Mr. Szerlag's question. Ms. Mount referred the question to Dr. Hampton.

Dr. Hampton believes that the subject is that of local interest and should be covered as a public interest story in a segment of "Chicago Tonight." Dr. Hampton continued, referencing the increased local coverage in the "In Your Neighborhood" segments of "Chicago Tonight." He suggested coverage of the Sisters in Cinema media lab, which would not require a "deep dive" into the organization itself. Just let the public know that the organization exists. Coverage could be like that in a previous proposal about "Open Books," which is a used bookstore in the West Loop. No huge production, but simply a mention in a neighborhood segment about the West Loop. Even that level of attention is beneficial. Mr. Szerlag agreed that it is a great idea. It seems to be "a no-brainer."

The Chair asked the Vice Chair if she wanted to rejoin the conversation.

The Vice Chair stated that ideas came to mind when considering the \$5,000 production grants. It may be that WTTW could get involved by putting those programs on the digital platform. Someone would need to reach out to the organization. The Vice Chair further noted that Mr. Russell has had conversations with Sisters in Cinema. When feasible, an invitation might be extended to Sisters in Cinema to tour the station.

Mr. Russell asked Dr. Hampton to clarify that Sisters in Cinema have filmmakers within the organization. Dr. Hampton answered yes. It is on their website now and it was not there when he first worked on the proposal. This speaks to the Vice Chair's comment that the organization is growing.

Ms. Campbell mentioned that in a previous meeting there was a discussion about the possibility of obtaining interactive data from viewers on programs being viewed, and she hopes that this will remain a goal as she believes that the ability to provide interactive feedback may help to retain and expand the adult membership and that it would be beneficial.

The Chair asked if there is an interactive component contemplated in the recommendation as currently drafted by the Program Committee. If not, is there a way in which an interactive component could be introduced?

Dr. Hampton answered that he had no idea how it would apply to the proposal as currently configured, but if a relationship developed between the organization and WTTW, it would be something for consideration in the future, depending on the media and documentary projects in development.

The Chair noted that this is a bit off topic of the resolution of the Programming Committee, but there has been discussion in which our primary interlocutor has been Lisa Tipton on the question of interactivity in programming writ large, both at the PBS and the WTTW level. The Chair further stated that Ms. Tipton might be hearing here from the CAB at this point, informal conversation on the subject, kind of an aspiration that if there is a way to have an interactive component to anything, try it. It would be interesting to see, as Ms. Campbell makes the point, that it would increase length and attention spans or find new audiences who deem programming to be of interest. The Chair thinks that it is a hardy perennial to be considered across the board of everything the CAB discussed.

The Chair asked if there was anything else to be said on the merits of the Hampton proposal that was put before the CAB by the Programming Committee? Hearing none, the Chair put the question before the CAB: Shall the CAB adopt and forward the Hampton proposal as the recommendation of the Community Advisory Board to management of WTTW?

The Chair continued explaining that the Hampton report was recommended to the full CAB by the Programming Committee. The vote was taken, and the recommendation was unanimously approved. The Chair directed that the report be edited and sent as the official recommendation of the Community Advisory Board to Management.

Ms. Tipton commented that there is interesting programming coming over the holidays, including, on Christmas night, the Downton Abbey movie. Ms. Tipton confirmed the airing of the Downton Abbey movie and explained that WTTW has limited airing rights, as with "A Charlie Brown Christmas." Charlie Brown can be aired only once. The Downton Abbey movie may be shown twice, once on Christmas night and again on January 2nd. PBS will be premiering "Around the World in 80 Days" starting David Tennant, on January 2nd. It is a new "Masterpiece" production. There is also the "Call the Midwife" holiday special showing on Christmas night.

There being no additional business with the Programming Committee, the Chair encouraged all CAB members to continue to watch and provide program comments. Please send comments right away. If watching on an ongoing basis, all the daily productions, the News Department productions, all the yeas or nays, pros and cons suggestions, criticism, constructive criticism, send those notes along to Ms. Mount and she can put them into the compilation of programming comments that she collects as we go along, making it easier for her and making it easier for commenters as well.

The Chair called upon Dr. Hampton for the Education Committee report.

Education Committee: The Chair noted that Dr. Hampton, chair of the Education Committee, has a report before the CAB.

Dr. Hampton directed attention to his report, stating that the report and the main themes through the programs and initiatives have a focus on reading, DEI, introducing youth and creating pipelines of young talent, into careers and professions that are underrepresented as far as minorities are concerned, and some that are just lacking labor in general. One item was the Sisters in Cinema program and the goal of the organization to support Black girls, women, and gender nonconforming individuals in their efforts as media makers. Dr. Hampton thinks that any kind of highlight of this organization will help surface stories from and about minority communities. Another item called to the CAB and WTTW's attention was the state veterinary medical association board, on which Dr. Hampton serves on the DEI committee of the Illinois State Veterinary Association. The state veterinary association recently established this standing committee because of the lack of diversity in the profession. It has been through research, through the national veterinary medical associations, and through surveys that it has become widely known that the veterinary profession is severely lacking in diversity as the profession is over 90% white.

The gender make-up has historically been male. In more recent decades, the pendulum has swung far in the other direction, where it is now predominantly female. When Dr. Hampton attended the University of Illinois (U of I) there was a class of 120 students. Of that, 100 were women, 20 were men. So as far as the state veterinary medical association is concerned, it created the DEI committee to help produce a pipeline for diverse students to produce and eventually develop professionals who are of diverse backgrounds and able to serve underserved communities, and also to educate practice owners and leaders of veterinary associations of the importance of DEI. One of the recent events coordinated by the committee was to bring a group of high school students from Chicago AG High School in Englewood Stem, to the U of I College of Veterinary Medicine's Open House. The Open House is a program conducted annually for youth and members of the public to become exposed to the veterinary profession and to see how the school operates.

The Open House has interactive activities in which the students can participate. They have a fistulated cow, which is one of Dr. Hampton's favorite activities. He explained that a cow has four stomachs. The largest stomach is where the fermentation occurs. For research purposes, the University has a cow called a Fisher Lady cow, where an individual can don a glove, reach in and grab food out of the cow's stomach to see what and how the contents look and feel. It is an

experience that helps introduce students and young people to the profession, again, because exposure to these different professions is how students develop interest. It is a program that WTTW might be interested in highlighting.

Dr. Hampton noted another program is the Chicago Area Health Education Center and its Speakers Bureau, which is a national organization with a local branch. The goal of organization is to meet the primary care and public health workforce needs in the Chicago area and to introduce students to different health care professionals, and build a pipeline of future doctors, nurses, and veterinarians. Its Speakers Bureau program brings together professionals in different health care programs to engage and conduct career days and to speak with students at various high schools. The program develops a list of speakers who are available to CPS students. Teachers can reach out to different participants in the Speakers Bureau to conduct a brief career day for their classes. This introduces students to a wide variety of public health care careers and to hopefully develop that young pipeline of students into the healthcare profession. Dr. Hampton believes that this needs to be brought to the public's attention via WTTW, especially during the pandemic with the burnout of public healthcare workers. Dr. Hampton also pointed out that there is a major shortage of veterinarians, veterinary technicians, and veterinary assistants.

Dr. Hampton also brought to the CAB's attention the Museum of Science and Industry's STEM programming, in which Dr. Hampton has participated over the years before the pandemic. The program introduces young people to various STEM careers, and it has expanded to the acronym STEAM to include the arts as well. There are different programs going on throughout the year. One is the Junior Science Cafe program, which is a small group presentation in which STEM professionals present to a small group of young people and conduct interactive presentations introduce students to different programs. The museum also has other STEM programming targeted four students, Black Creativity Month programming, as well as Science Works Career Days conducted in conjunction with Hispanic Heritage Month. Dr. Hampton wanted to bring these programs to the CAB's attention.

As mentioned earlier in this meeting, "Chicago Tonight's" In Your Neighborhood series covered the Open Books bookstore. Open Books is a used bookstore providing books and reading and writing support to local students. Previously, and maybe still, the store provides reading support to adults as well. It was the subject of a program proposal by the CAB's Education Committee, and, as stated, was covered by "Chicago Tonight." To quote from WTTW's website, "West Loop is also home to the venerable nonprofit Open Books used bookstore that takes its proceeds to provide books as well as reading and writing education to under resource students throughout Chicago."

Dr. Hampton concluded with a public interest question that he received: "What has been the effect of the economic downturn and the pandemic on the City Colleges of Chicago?" The Education Committee brings this to the CAB because it is an important question for the city as it provides an affordable pathway to career advancement for low income and minority students. Determining how the City Colleges of Chicago have survived the pandemic will be important for the future of our region.

The Chair thanked Dr. Hampton and offered comments on Dr. Hampton's presentation. First, Dr. Hampton is a model for the CAB members in this sense: every CAB member belongs to an array of civic and community organizations, neighborhood organizations, religious organizations, professional organizations, political organizations, hobby organizations, educational organizations, ethnic organizations, neighborhood organizations, and so forth. How Dr. Hampton has extracted from his day-to-day and week-to-week interactions with all those intersections that his daily life points where one can see that there is a connection between what one observes in the community and what public television does or can do. The Chair reminded the CAB members: "We all belong to little platoons here and there, and we all seek connections between other little platoons and connections between public television. You have put on the table a whole bunch of them tonight."

Station Administration and Finance Committee: Mr. Szerlag first asked Dr. Hampton if he described a real cow or a simulated cow in the report of the Education Committee. Dr. Hampton answered that it is a real cow and continued to describe the process of reaching into a cow's stomach. Mr. Szerlag commented about the U of I veterinary school stating that the veterinarian for his two cats is a former professor there, and she went into private practice, and that he has never had better care for his felines. U of I is an impressive place to get educated.

Mr. Russell interjected that he wanted to thank Dr. Hampton, because in the report that he submitted today for the education program committee, Dr. Hampton cited relevant resources. "Chicago Tonight" always asks Mr. Russell for different voices, different experts, leaders, and topics. Mr. Russell will share the list Dr. Hampton provided. Mr. Russell could not comment on what stories "Chicago Tonight" has but staff always asks for potential resources to help diversify its expert panels. Mr. Russell stated that the staff does an excellent job anyway, but it is always good to have an additional list.

The Chair thanked Mr. Russell for his comments. The Chair spoke for Ms. Cragan, the former Programming Committee chairman, and Ms. Mount, the current Programming Committee chairman in stating that when members of the CAB come forward with programming proposals, one of the most valuable things done, as Dr. Hampton illustrates time and time again, is to suggest resources that suggest experts or people who have experienced whatever the issue is with contact information, websites, email addresses, telephone numbers, and the like. Then when Mr. Russell and Ms. Tipton turn information over to the production people, the producers, the writers, and so forth, there is something useful that they can use to call up these people and say, is there really a newsmaker here? Is there somebody who is articulate and can come across in the way that public television can make useful to the consuming public, information that is being suggested can be found there? The Chair thanked Mr. Russell for commenting and called upon Mr. Szerlag.

Mr. Szerlag stated that he had not checked the WTTW website since the morning of the current meeting. I did not check the WTTW website until this morning, but he has periodically looked to see if the 2021 financial reports had been posted. He was pleasantly surprised to see it there this morning.

All CAB members received the link to the 2021 report that is on the WTTW website. Mr. Szerlag prepared a summary that is included in the in the short report submitted to the Chair. Mr. Szerlag was pleased to hear Mr. Blowers and Ms. Micek talk about the financial results because those results were remarkable. Mr. Szerlag was quite surprised at the bottom line. He said that he did not know what to expect with pandemic and as was mentioned, the economy and everything. To produce a bottom line where there is an increase in net assets and a decrease in total liabilities by 20 million is phenomenal. It would be hard to reproduce that result next year, but as it is, it is an excellent outcome. Each CAB member has the link to the 27-page report. Mr. Szerlag stated that Page 3 tells one everything that needs to be known. There one can see which categories are up, which ones are down, and it is all good. The CAB should be pleased and proud of the station's leadership and for being able to pull that together in the way they did in a challenging environment over the past year and a half.

Mr. Szerlag's opinion is that it is a well-run organization. With that, Mr. Szerlag commented on the Chair's comment about focusing on technology for the upcoming year. Mr. Szerlag thinks in the past twelve months he has tried to present to the CAB perspective not only on the local performance of WTTW, but how that it fits into the bigger picture with PBS and on a national level? Mr. Szerlag hopes that the CAB members find the data of value and interest, and thinks it gives context for the issues that the CAB presents in its own meetings. If anyone has any suggestions or recommendations for additional type of analysis, Mr. Szerlag is happy to pursue those suggestions. He believes that a better understanding of WTTW's markets is an important thing in terms of the CAB, as a committee, making recommendations on programming and topics.

There is a dearth of information out there on marketing. One must pay for it to get it. Other information is free, but those are areas that Mr. Szerlag has an eye out to try and share what he finds and will continue to do so.

Mr. Szerlag wants to try individually as a Cab member to better understand how the digital transformation and streaming is playing out. He thinks that such is an area on which the CAB should become better informed, and that would help inform the CAB's recommendations as a committee. He believes that this area is a good priority for his subcommittee for the upcoming year, and hopes to be able to drill into it. Mr. Szerlag is happy to try and dig out other aspects of doing an analysis that the CAB might find valuable. Mr. Szerlag welcomed any ideas and pledged to act on them if possible.

The Chair thanked Mr. Szerlag and encouraged CAB members to take Mr. Szerlag's offer to heart. CAB members should forward ideas or questions to that could be directed to management to Mr. Szerlag. The Chair reminded the CAB members that the CAB meets with Anne Gleason once per year or so, and her roles are head of marketing and head of digital. The Chair encouraged Mr. Szerlag to formulate questions to Ms. Gleason in the areas of digital platforms, other than the broadcasting platform, or about the big shift to YouTube, and suggested that the Chair, Mr. Russell, or Ms. Tipton could help open the channel for communication with Ms. Gleason.

Ms. Campbell returned to the subject of interactive media, commenting that Anne Gleason was the person who explained that it might be a possibility in the future, but Ms. Campbell said she would like to learn more about it now.

Mr. Russell interjected that one thing that Ms. Gleason's group does is to provide related digital media in connection with the major program initiatives such as "Chicago Stories – Ida B. Wells," the Muhammad Ali film, and other WTTW-produced or major PBS programming. That digital material will go deeper into the content to show the connection to Chicago, to engage the people beyond the screen.

The Chair thanked Ms. Campbell and commented to Mr. Russell and Ms. Tipton that at most CAB meetings something comes up that has to do with digital, interactive, or marketing. The CAB always has questions for Anne Gleason.

The Chair then thanked the committee chairs who presented committee reports, and then commented that Ms. Meredith did not have a formal committee report, but the Chair noted that Ms. Norma Sutton was in the room and stated that it was nice to see her back at a CAB meeting as a member of the public. The Chair asked if Ms. Sutton were present at the meeting because of ongoing vacancies in the CAB and that there has been a change in her professional life which would allow Ms. Sutton to reapply for CAB membership.

Ms. Sutton responded that she attended the meeting to catch up on what the CAB is currently doing. Ms. Sutton further commented that her job situation has changed in that she no longer commutes to Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, and is currently working again in Chicago. Ms. Sutton explained that Ms. Meredith has been talking to Ms. Sutton about rejoining the CAB, which prompted her attendance at the present meeting.

The Chair welcomed Ms. Sutton and noted that a few current CAB members had the pleasure of serving with Ms. Sutton in prior years and that Ms. Sutton is a known quantity. The Chair noted that he hoped to see Ms. Sutton at a future meeting, perhaps in February.

Further, the Chair commented to Ms. Meredith that there has been no discussion of the Membership Committee timetables for filling vacancies on the CAB. The Chair reminded everyone that the April meeting is the CAB's annual meeting. The Chair thanked Ms. Meredith for work on the vacancy issues.

Ms. Meredith responded that she intended to bring Ms. Sutton onto the CAB tonight. Ms. Meredith and Ms. Mockus were not planning a formal nomination as Ms. Sutton is known to CAB members who know of her past CAB work. Ms. Meredith stated that if Ms. Sutton and the CAB are agreeable, the CAB could vote at the present meeting.

Ms. Sutton commented that she remembers several current CAB members, and that she did not mind waiting for the next meeting. The Chair suggested that Ms. Sutton be presented for election in February and would then be an incumbent for the annual meeting in April. Ms. Campbell interjected that she thought the CAB should decide the issue at the current meeting.

The Chair asked for unanimous consent to deviate from the agenda and proceed to the consideration of an oral membership committee report at this moment, is there any objection to that process?

Hearing no objection, the Chair turned to Ms. Meredith and stated that the typical procedure would be for Ms. Meredith to introduce Ms. Sutton, or let Ms. Sutton do a self-introduction. Not all CAB members know Ms. Sutton, so the Chair suggested that Ms. Sutton take a minute to explain her background and why she would like to re-join the CAB.

Ms. Sutton resides in the Tri-Taylor neighborhood of Chicago. She is an attorney by profession. Her previous employment was at Northern Illinois University in the procurement department, but is again working in downtown Chicago. She could not precisely remember how long or the exact years she served on the CAB, but she was on the CAB before the Chair joined. The CAB was always a robust committee that was interested in community activities, and she remembers good committee meetings and discussions. She enjoys the interaction and the activities, and served on various committees when last on the CAB. Ms. Sutton served as chair of the Nominating Committee.

The Chair asked if anyone had any questions for Ms. Sutton. Dr. Hampton spoke up and stated that he, too, lives in the Tri Taylor neighborhood. Ms. Sutton responded that she has a cat so would be looking to meet Dr. Hampton.

The Chair asked if there were any other questions for Ms. Sutton. Hearing none, the Chair explained that the CAB has before it a proposal by the Membership Committee, and confirmed that Ms. Sutton's application had been considered by the committee, but noted that the nomination had not been discussed with the Chair, the Vice Chair, or the Secretary. The Chair offered the Vice Chair and the Secretary the opportunity to object to this deviation from the committee process. Hearing no objections from members of the Membership Committee, the Chair again announced the nomination before the CAB, presented by the Membership Committee is that Norma Sutton be elected to a vacancy on the Community Advisory Board. The Chair commented that there are two vacancies and asked which vacancy would be filled by Ms. Sutton's election. One is the Sutchar vacancy expiring in 2023 and the other is the Wimberly vacancy expiring in 2022. Ms. Meredith answered that the vacancy being filled is the Sutchar vacancy expiring in 2023.

The Chair restated the issue and called for the vote. Hearing no nays, Norma J. Sutton was unanimously elected to the CAB. The Chair thanked Ms. Meredith for bringing the matter to the CAB and then welcomed Ms. Sutton.

The Chair announced that the committee business was concluded.

New Business: The Chair asked if there was any new business as no one had communicated any to him. No new business was introduced.

Good and Welfare: The Chair announced that December 15 is the Bill of Rights Day. It is a big day for America. The Bill of Rights are the first ten amendments to the United States Constitution and was ratified on this date in 1791. The Bill of Rights are an important part of our constitutional legacy not to be taken for granted.

Something else important happened on December 15, and that was the birth of Kristin Mount. So, this is the eve of Kristin Mount's birthday. Happy Birthday, Madam Chairman of the Programming Committee.

The Chair noted that Mr. Shariff was in the meeting and that he had big news. Mr. Shariff announced that he was married over the summer.

The Chair commented that it is great to hear wonderful news like Dr. Hampton's new baby and Mr. Shariff's marriage.

Dr. Hampton announced that his daughter is walking with a walker and that "she is all over the place." He also announced that he is changing jobs and returning to the Anti-Cruelty Society. He is taking the role of Manager of Community Medicine. He further noted that anyone who might like a tour after COVID has passed should contact him. The Chair added that the tour is a wonderful thing.

The Chair noted that Ms. Campbell had earlier mentioned the Chicago Children's Choir. The Chair's granddaughter recently left the Choir where she had learned about gospel music. She became a huge fan and did a Chicago History Fair entry exhibit that won her a bit of praise and a prize. After leaving the Choir she joined the Second City Student Ensemble, where she is learning sketch comedy and improvisation. The Chair exclaimed that she now matches his bad puns.

Ms. Campbell reminded everyone that she twice had been the victim of identity theft, and it has happened again. She spoke to her banker, and it was suggested that she open a separate checking account only for online purchases. Ms. Campbell asked the CAB members if any had ideas about what she might be doing wrong to have this happen three times.

Ms. Meroni commented that her credit card number was stolen by someone walking near her with a scanner, as the card number stolen was one that she never used. She suggested that Ms. Campbell purchase a wallet that is designed to block scanners (RFID). Purses may also have the protection built into them.

The Chair noted that Mr. Johnson also has a birthday on December 15.

Ms. Mockus conveyed good news regarding her son, who has suffered with A-Fib for years. He recently underwent an ablation procedure, which is intended to re-orient the electrical systems in the heart. Surgery took 3½ hours, but the results have been miraculous to this point. Her son described it as having an anvil lifted from his chest.

The Chair asked Mr. Grady if he would miss the CAB and its members, this group of complete strangers, all diverse from one another and with different focuses, but with the thing in common being respect and love for public television. The group gets together and focuses its attention on public television and how it can make the station better. Will Mr. Grady miss this?

Mr. Grady responded that he would miss being part of it. He described it as a wonderful group with amazing camaraderie and incredible respect for one another. He is impressed with the compassion and love for the station exhibited by people of diverse backgrounds, experiences, perspectives, and concerns. He described his departure as bittersweet, and hinted that he might turn up once and awhile as a member of the public. The Chair said that Mr. Grady would be given his three minutes to address the CAB.

The Chair declared that the meeting has come to the end of its agenda. Everyone wished one another Happy Holidays.

The next meeting will be the third Tuesday of February. The Chair thanked everyone for the wonderful meeting, and reminded everyone that Mr. Grady is sending his replacement in the person of the President and CEO of WWCI, which will keep management liaisons Mr. Russell and Ms. Tipton on their toes. The Chair concluded with "... let me say Merry Christmas, Happy New Year. And as Tiny Tim would say, God bless us everyone."

Next meeting: Tuesday, February 15, 2022, at 6:00 PM via Zoom

The meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rita E. Tandaric
Secretary

Attachments: