

Minutes of the ORCA Media Board of Directors meeting, June 26, 2018

Board members present: Winston Sadoo, Mike Abadi, Susan Bettmann, David Connor, Bill Doyle, Mike Doyle, Carlos Diaz (by phone), and Rob Chapman

absent: Rachel Feldman, CJ Stumpf

6:33 p.m. — Meeting called to order

6:59 p.m. — Election of new officers

Nominated for Chair: Mike Abadi

Nominated for Treasurer: Mike Doyle

Nominated for Secretary: Sue Bettmann

All candidates elected by acclamation.

6:54 Minutes of the April 24th board meeting

Moved by Winston to accept, Sue seconds. Minutes approved by unanimous vote.

6:55 p.m.— Financial report—Mike Doyle

We have \$41,000 cash on hand, with \$31,000 debits.

The last quarterly check from Comcast was \$104,000, down from \$110,000 received in January. The Edward Jones and Sons reserve fund account is built for this discrepancy.

That account has \$255,000, with a \$41,000 loan to repay. Repayments are going well.

The account value is \$244,000, up from \$213,000 at our last meeting.

We need to pay out a settlement with Jackie of \$3,000 for 130 hours of vacation time accrued,

and \$8,000 for our part of the law suit with Comcast.

Rob says that we may need to take money from the reserve account to cover these expenses and operating expenses. He will get a better sense of that soon.

Mike D. suggests allowing an amount not to exceed \$20,000 to be withdrawn for operating expenses in \$10,000 increments. Rob will report on this at the next board meeting in August.

Mike says \$1,000 per month goes into operating expenses.

Rob explains that the first quarter of the year is the most expensive, with payroll of \$4,000 every two weeks, mainly because of covering the legislature.

Mike A. calls the motion to approve monies being withdrawn from the reserve fund for operating expenses in \$10,000 increments, not to exceed \$20,000. Motion passes.

In a discussion about how to reduce operating expenses, Carlos suggests bringing in students to subsidize internships and create a bigger pool of camera operators, offering school credit and/or gas money for their services. Winston urges that we use austerity measures instead of using reserve funds since we can't maintain the use of those funds. Rob will work with staff to cut expenses.

Mike A. makes a motion to accept the Treasurer's report. Dave moves, Sue seconds. Motion passes.

7:10 Directors' Report—Rob Chapman

Jackie has transitioned out of her position, and accepted and thanked ORCA for the (expensive) box of chocolates she was given as a thank you for her work.

Jin has now transitioned into that position. Her benefits will start in July. She is very good with databases. She and Rob are working on archives developing protocols for video back-ups using Nearline/Farline and NAS video storage.

Scarlett has begun an internship to help with archiving. She is working 15 hours per week for minimum wage. We may be able to get funding for her position through the Department of Labor.

Merrill Witham was here helping out for a few weeks but has now gone back to L.A. Emory Brush is leaving.

Comcast has decreased payments by approximately 3.5% to VAN network members not just ORCA. We are waiting on the Court's decision on whether to dismiss the suit.

Bill moves to accept Rob's report. Mike D. seconds. The motion is approved.

7:22 Old Business

Discussion about the Annual Meeting. The delicious food from Banchan cost \$250, not a significant increase over previous years. We need to get better attendance. What do we want the meeting to look like? We can showcase what ORCA does, maybe get letters of support from certain dignitaries like Peter Welch or Bernie Sanders. Rob will get in touch with Welch's Burlington office. Bernie supports us in the suit.

The Alliance for Community Media conference is in Baltimore the second week of July. Rob and Chris Green will drive down—a cost-cutting measure.

Dave mentions Bill Dunfey as a potential supporter. He is the new owner of the *Montpelier Bridge*.

ORCA will live stream the Montpelier 3rd of July parade but won't enter a float in this year. The streaming will give us better recognition.

Mike A. discusses how to commemorate John Bloch's contribution to ORCA. Rather than naming a studio for him, it's suggested that we offer a \$500 scholarship to a student. Mike D. recommends offering the scholarship to a Montpelier High School student. Rob adds that the scholarship should go to a student who focuses on filmmaking with a social agenda. Carlos is interested in that. Mike A. says that Comcast offers a similar \$1,000 scholarship.

Winston brings up creating committees such as programming, engineering (tech), strategic planning, by-laws, development and outreach/PR.

Mike A. says that board meetings be held every other month, with sub-committees meeting on the alternate months, choosing 2 or 3 committees to identify and develop.

7:34. New Business

Winston suggests doing 2 programs a year spotlighting each of the towns in our service area. There are 14 towns. Events could be cultural, sporting, agricultural—such as farmers markets—etc. We could also set up an information table at farmers markets to let people know we exist and what we do—offering video production assistance.

Dave moves, and that is second and approved.

7:45. Adjournment

Mike D. moves to adjourn. Winston seconds. The motion passes, and the meeting adjourns at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Bettmann