

WJFF Radio Catskill Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes Annual Meeting part 2, the 2019 - 2020 BOT

June 26, 2019 at 8:30pm

Village of Jeffersonville Hall, NY

Approved July 27, 2019

Trustees Present: Tim Bruno, Duncan Cooper, Steve Davis, Bill Fellenberg, Kirsten Foster, Kathy Geary, John Gordon (phone), Leila McCullough, Kevin McDaniel, Angela Page, Thane Peterson, Judith Schwartzstein, Clay Smith, Sally Stuart (phone)

Trustees Absent: Caitlin Wilson

Staff Present: Dan Rigney, Andrea Nero Eddings

Members of the public present who identified themselves: Approximately 20 people in attendance

Leila McCullough presided over the meeting until a new slate of officers was elected. A quorum being present, she called the meeting to order at 8:30 pm.

All new and returning members were sworn in using the following oath:

"I solemnly affirm that as a Trustee of Radio Catskill I will support the mission of the station, follow and uphold its policies and procedures, and all applicable laws and regulations, and will faithfully discharge my fiduciary duties as Trustee to the best of my abilities."

Election of Officers

Candidates for the BOT Officers introduced themselves and each gave a speech.

President: Thane Peterson emphasized the importance of the move to Liberty and the importance of our financial commitments.

President: Steve Davis read his resume and his vision for the station (see attached).

Vice-President: Angela Page read her bio and stated her vision for the station (see attached).

Vice-President: Tim Bruno states his commitment to the station and willingness to serve.

Treasurer: John Gordon (by phone) stated his background in accounting and his commitment to the future of the station. He said he would work closely with the previous treasurer Thane Peterson to take over the responsibilities.

Secretary: Kathy Geary stated her willingness to continue to serve as secretary.

Paper ballots were distributed for the election of the President and Vice President. The two members on the phone gave their vote in private by phone to Leila. The ballots were counted and results were announced:

Thane Peterson, President and Tim Bruno, Vice President.

Motion: (Peterson/Page) to elect by acclamation Kathy Geary as Secretary and John Gordon as Treasurer.

In Favor: Tim Bruno, Duncan Cooper, Steve Davis, Bill Fellenberg, Kirsten Foster, Kathy Geary, John Gordon (phone), Leila McCullough, Kevin McDaniel, Angela Page, Thane Peterson, Judith Schwartzstein, Sally Stuart (phone)

Opposed: None

Abstaining: Clay Smith, not enough information

All present members of the BOT signed Conflict of Interest Statements.

Motion: Authorize members of the 2019-2020 Executive Committee: Thane Peterson, President, Tim Bruno, Vice-President, John Gordon, Treasurer, and Kathy Geary, Secretary, as well as Dan Rigney, General Manager/Development Director, and Andrea Nero-Eddings, Assistant Manager as signatories on our accounts at Jeff Bank, with the proviso that in accordance with station policy, checks with a value greater than \$1,000.00 require the signature of an officer of the corporation, and checks made out to staff members or trustees cannot be signed by the recipient. (Geary/McCullough)

In Favor: Tim Bruno, Duncan Cooper, Steve Davis, Bill Fellenberg, Kirsten Foster, Kathy Geary, John Gordon (phone), Leila McCullough, Kevin McDaniel, Angela Page, Thane Peterson, Judith Schwartzstein, Clay Smith, Sally Stuart (phone)

Opposed: None

Motion: Approve the portion of these minutes regarding approval of signatories. (Geary/Cooper)

In Favor: Tim Bruno, Duncan Cooper, Steve Davis, Bill Fellenberg, Kirsten Foster, Kathy Geary, John Gordon (phone), Leila McCullough, Kevin McDaniel, Angela Page, Thane Peterson, Judith Schwartzstein, Clay Smith, Sally Stuart (phone)

Opposed: None

Discussion was held regarding the best day for BOT meetings. The next BOT Meeting will be July 24, Wed at 6:30pm, location TBD. Angela Page suggested the Catskill Regional Hospital as ideal location.

Thane Peterson says committee assignments will be handled via email.

Angela Page, Chairman Nom & Gov, says the staggered terms for the newly elected members still needs to be decided. Some members will serve full 3 yr terms and others will serve either 1 or 2 yr terms.

Thane Peterson suggested that the new BOT take out an AD in the upcoming Gala Program to congratulate the honorees Pat Adams and Duke Devlin. A half-page AD is \$300 and each BOT member would contribute \$20. A Full page AD is \$500 and each member would contribute \$33. It was noted that might be too expensive considering we have to also purchase tickets for the event at either the \$100 full value or the volunteer discount of \$60. No decision was made.

Public Comment

Sonja Hedlund made several comments.

1. The phone access to the BOT meetings is poor and not working for public access. She recommends a ZOOM broadcast or other online method.
2. She asks that BOT meetings be recorded as they used to be recorded and available to the public as mp3s.
3. She asked that the BOT Meeting Minutes and supporting documents be available to the public in advance of the meeting. It was noted that the minutes cannot be made available to the public until they are approved, usually at the next month's meeting.
4. Is there an Orientation planned for the new BOT members? Nothing was mentioned by the new president.
5. Staff needs to supply the BOT with current information: how many volunteers are there and how has that number changed over time; how many supporting members are there and where are they from; more demographics.
6. Station needs to calculate the value of the volunteer hrs, at approximately \$22 per hr, this is a significant amount.
7. Volunteers need to be asked for their opinions about the station and the staff. Sonja feels the listserv should be more open and not screened by the staff.

Midge Maroni contended that the BOT members have ignored the By Laws as evidenced in this meeting. She states that policy is important and should not be ignored and that it is the responsibility of the BOT members to learn the station policies and By Laws. She states that the pledge drives are too long, that we losing members and that it's better to have smaller contributions from many people instead of bigger contributions from fewer people. She states that there is not enough volunteer participation. She strongly objects to the improper BOT behavior regarding campaigning for candidates in the volunteer election.

Kit Hult welcomes the new members of the BOT. She suggests that the Nom & Gov committee consider amending the By Laws regarding voting in the volunteer election for BOT members that the votes be made in person at the station instead of by USPS mail. She states that when she served as secretary of the BOT that she compiled a comprehensive list of the WJFF Station Policies as of 2016. She noted, however, that the list is not yet complete and has not yet been posted anywhere so it is difficult for Board members to know what the rules are.

Discussion was held about how to respond to public comment.

Motion: (Geary/Davis) BOT meeting agenda should be posted online at least 48 hrs prior to the meeting.

In Favor: Tim Bruno, Duncan Cooper, Steve Davis, Bill Fellenberg, Kirsten Foster, Kathy Geary, Leila McCullough, Kevin McDaniel, Angela Page, Thane Peterson, Judith Schwartzstein, Clay Smith, Sally Stuart (phone)

Opposed: None

Motion: (Smith/Geary) BOT meeting agenda should include a review of the public comments from the previous meeting to identify items and issues that need to be addressed.

In Favor: Tim Bruno, Duncan Cooper, Steve Davis, Bill Fellenberg, Kirsten Foster, Kathy Geary, Leila McCullough, Kevin McDaniel, Angela Page, Thane Peterson, Judith Schwartzstein, Clay Smith, Sally Stuart (phone)

Opposed: None

Motion to adjourn. (Page/Davis) All in favor. (9:50pm)

Submitted by Kathy Geary, Secretary

Steve Davis
Livingston Manor, NY 12758

Current Employment

Founder and owner of Davis Coding Group & Associates, Inc., a marketing research company with its roots in Manhattan, NY. Davis Coding Group organizes and compiles open end questionnaire responses for analysis. Data entry and questionnaire design are among the other support services provided. The corporation will be celebrating its 42nd anniversary September 2019. I am responsible for client contact, sales, cost estimates, scheduling and financial projections. Supervision of over 15 full time employees and delegating work to meet client deadlines is a key to my ability to get work done accurately and in a timely manner which I believe has contributed to the longevity of my company's success as well as its well known positive reputation within the market research community.

Goldwater Memorial Hospital Recreation Direction

Respirator Unit

Respirator Unit recreation involved one on one interaction. All patients on this unit were quadriplegic. Patients ranged in age from 4 to 60. One on one activities included playing scrabble, cards, reading, letter writing and conversation. Given the patients' unique limitations, all on respirators and one in an iron lung, many with abandoned families, the recreation activities were a welcomed part of their day. Took patients to a Mets game at Shea Stadium with the help of portable respirators attached to wheelchairs.

Blind and Multiply Handicapped Patients

Blindness was secondary to other serious illnesses among this group. I developed a program to teach the blind how to draw with the goal of having an in hospital art show displaying their works. My administrator submitted my program to the State of New York and it was subsequently funded by the state for development and implementation in all city owned hospitals. I arranged for and escorted patients to The NY Flower Show and The Circle Line boat tour of Manhattan both requiring hard to get special permits and with a determination to break the barriers for those less fortunate, I am proud that I was able to make a difference.

Baruch College

I was approached by Baruch College in New York City to write their market research curriculum when they decided to offer market research as a major for student study. I accepted the challenge and submitted my curriculum in exchange for an associate professorship.

A Personal Note

My familiarity with Sullivan County started as a child. My family spent summers in the Catskills. In 2004 after being diagnosed with stage 4 cancer and completing the long arduous treatments, I felt the need for solitude. I retreated back to upstate New York to a small town in Delaware County. I successfully ran my company from home and regained the strength I lost from being so ill. Learning quickly what is important in life I decided to make a permanent move out of the city. My fond memories and familiarity with Sullivan County from years past prompted me to make it my new home. I believe my inner peace, and quiet sense of self is due in part to the beauty and tranquility that Sullivan County has afforded me. I have met wonderful new friends and made a happy and productive life for myself.

Education

I am a graduate of Hunter College with a double major, art history and speech pathology & audiology. My minor studies were psychology and theater.

WJFF

This past year I have spent many hours as an active member of the WJFF Board of Trustees. My involvement includes being a member of the audit committee, nomination and governance committee and the liaison to the Community Advisory Board as well as a financial donor.

Other Current Interests

Cultural activities and friends. I am an ongoing financial supporter of The Humane Society and Shriners Hospitals for Children.

I am a member of the Catskill Arts Society as well as the Livingston Manor Chamber of Commerce.

Overview

With over 40 years as a corporate owner and manager I have a solid background in organizational structure and the ability to maintain a healthy and profitable business.

My leadership skills coupled with my understanding of the station's by-laws and policies, mission statement and strategic plan, give me the confidence needed to be an effective board president.

With our pending move to Liberty I bring with me the necessary skills to make the next phase in the life of WJFF a successful one which include but are not limited to foresight, the understanding of branding and its importance in maintaining and expanding listenership, financial responsibility and the ever-expanding social media platforms in the continuing evolution of broadcast radio.

Boces, our soon to be neighbor in Liberty will be an exciting new partner as we continue to develop programs and events that will benefit them as well as WJFF. My years-long friendship with the president of the Boces Board of Trustees can only help but to enhance our ongoing relationship with them.

Having spent the last year as a Board of Trustees member and liaison to the Community Advisory Board I have a keen insight into the strengths and weaknesses of the station as well as the board. Based on my involvement I look forward to the opportunity of working with the new board in an inclusive, collaborative, honest and transparent way to help pave the road ahead to a fruitful and financially secure future for WJFF.

I would be humbled to serve as the next WJFF Board of Trustees president.

Angela Page - candidate for Vice President

I have a masters in library science, and worked 25 years at liberty schools where I helped develop and implement the strategic plan for the transition of the school from two buildings, Elementary and High, to adding a middle school. I designed my new library for layout and materials. I managed a staff and volunteers, maintained county-wide networking with online and in house library services, information storage, retrieval and dissemination - handled financial reports, orders, press releases, library website and, creating power points for meetings and classes.

I'm an active folk music promoter. For the last 10 years I have been on the conference committee for the Northeast Regional Folk Alliance, a nonprofit organization that seeks to nurture, engage and empower the international music community. I have served as a judge for the showcase artists, and book and manage the exhibit hall of 75 - 100 booths.

In the 80's I managed the 24/7 music club Speak Easy on Greenwich Village's MacDougal Street, transforming it from a reggae bar to an every night hangout for singer songwriters, handling press, finances and booked every night until I moved up here full time in 1983.

I have written book reviews for the New Jersey Library Association, been published in School Library Journal and wrote monthly reviews for many years for Sing Out Magazine, which Pete Seeger began before I was born. I've lived in three countries and speak conversational French, Spanish and bits of Gaelic.

I run the local Parkinson's support group out of Harris Hospital increasing it's membership and booking speakers over the past year.

Specifically for WJFF, I was involved in fund raising over 30 years ago when it was just a vision and didn't yet have a home. Before the station had the financial means to support a salaried full time program director several of us served in that position, which I took on. Through the years I have seen many boards and people come and go. In 2017 after serving as a long time host, I applied to join the WJFF board.

I have maintained my connections to the educational world in the county as well as the music scene. I live about 5 miles from both the Jeffersonville studio and the Liberty site. I'm a methodical worker, organized, honest and ethical, championing clear communication and acceptance.