PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING (Zoom)

Draft Minutes

September 8, 2020

Approved Monday, November 16, 2020

Present: Valerie Mansi, Nick Forte, Mary Hall, Judy Rosen, David Dann, Jason Dole, Tim Bruno

Called to order by Valerie at 2:08

Minutes from previous meeting approved by all

Feedback:

Tim took T-shirt designs to a very busy Callicoon Farmers Market to get general feedback from the people there. Some did not know about the station but liked its concept as well as the station. Others, more familiar with the station, were positive about the programming and particularly the airing of Cuomo’s press conferences. Some people from Philadelphia said that they liked WJFF better than WHYY.

Valerie gave appreciation for the team news program with David, Tim and Manor Ink. Good coverage, good energy.

Jason’s Program Director’s Report:

• Scheduling and programming changes and explanations were given to the Board.

• Two more local show hosts, Kusar Grace and Jesse Ballew, are recording from home.

• Connectivity issues are being investigated and a solution looked for.

* WJFF conducted 350 interviews on local topics with local authorities and aired them during breaks in All Things Considered. ATC has been running for 3 hours instead of the traditional two hours.
* New shows include youth news show with Manor Ink and Lets Talk Sullivan County.
* Jason went over the scheduling changes which are starting now.
* A survey was completed among a small sample of current listeners. Discussion about the possibility of conducting a survey that would reflect the views of people who are new to the area, particularly those who have come since COVID, as well as with the long time permanent population. Jason suggests waiting until 2021. Tim will bring it up at the Board meeting.
* The station will be carrying the NPR coverage of the election debates. We will also have local election coverage. Discussion about the possibility of having local candidates on air and perhaps debates among those running for local office.
* Tim will continue doing morning coverage for the time being. He is not sure how the schedule will work out now that he is Interim Manager and he is looking at the possibility of new hires. Discussion about how to keep the quality of the coverage at its current level without Jason and Tim on air all the time.
* We may lose NPR’s weekly report on the virus. A possible replacement is Ask Me Another and the PC is asked to listen to it.
* Discussion about what form our programming should take as we move forward. Possibility of programming about local changes since the virus, systemic racism, politics, education are all mentioned and discussed.
* River Reporter and its reporter, Owen, get positive feedback for their programs. But the need for more of this sort of programming and possibly from other sources is noted. Atomic Radio is mentioned.
* Although it is still uncertain, volunteers might be able to start producing shows from the Honesdale studio sometime soon and on an “as needed” basis. The timing for a return to regular production cannot yet be determined.
* Scheduling changes are on the website.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:11.

The next meeting is TBD and will be scheduled by email.