

KSPS Community Advisory Board Minutes – 11/9/17

CAB members attending in person: Shaun Higgins (Chair), Becka Shelley (Vice Chair), Emily Geddes (Secretary), Vanessa Strange

Members attending by phone: none

Members absent: Terrie Ashby-Scott, Consuelo Larrabee, Bob Morrison

KSPS staff attending: Cary Balzer (Program Director)

Public attendees: none

Opening Business

A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 4:08 pm. It was noted that Gary is currently attending the PBS Board of Governors meeting in Washington D.C., Terrie is out of town, Consuelo communicated with Shaun and Cary prior to the meeting, and technical difficulties prevented Bob from calling in despite many efforts.

The minutes from the 10/12/17 meeting were approved (motion: Becka, second: Vanessa) and thanks to Becka for taking those minutes in Emily's absence. Emily will forward them to Dawn to be posted on the KSPS website, in compliance with Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) requirements, and to Linda Finney, Secretary of the Friends of KSPS board, in compliance with the bylaws.

General Manager Report and Program Manager Report

As Gary was not able to attend, Cary covered both the General Manager Report and the Program Manager Report.

A local documentary airs tonight called *Hidden in Plain Sight: Homelessness in Spokane*. It will be followed by a one-hour town hall forum that was conducted last Thursday.

As expected, viewer feedback regarding the Ken Burns/Lynn Novick series on the Vietnam War has been higher than usual. Many of the comments are negative, focusing on concerns regarding the inclusion of voices with which the viewer disagrees. There are also worries that the series is causing pain to those who are still suffering from personal trauma regarding the war and that replaying the series is too much. Several CAB members noted that, while sympathetic to concerns, they thought the series was well-done and that they appreciated the inclusion of multiple points of view.

Cary also received viewer comments regarding the *NOVA Killer Floods* episode that aired last night. Several people noticed and mentioned the omission of local connections to the subject matter. Cary pointed out an earlier episode of NOVA several years ago that included that information.

Cary noted that the cooking series featuring John Besh was pulled and replaced at the request of American Public Television due to recent accusations of sexual harassment.

Common Sense Media recently released a new report on children's media use. KSPS is pleased to offer high-quality educational programming at non-traditional times through PBS Kids 24/7 and has received positive comments from viewers. Cary mentioned that a gaming integration feature coordinating PBS children's programming with interactive games will be launched in the next year.

Mr. Roger's Neighborhood turns 50 next year. It currently airs on KSPS Sunday mornings at 6:00 a.m.

November is Native American Heritage Month. To recognize the month, KSPS World is highlighting content on Native American topics. The main channel is airing on-topic documentaries every Sunday afternoon as well.

A one-hour documentary called *Understanding the Opioid Epidemic* will air in January 2018. In conjunction with this special, the topic for the *Health Matters* program in January will be changed to an episode on local opioid issues. Additional digital resources will be available on the website for use in family, community, and educational settings.

Other upcoming specials include:

- Holiday specials for *Last Tango in Halifax* (airing December 17 & 24) and *Call the Midwife* (airing December 25).
- A binge event of *Downton Abbey* to run from 10:00 a.m. on December 30 until 5:00 p.m. on January 1, 2018. This will coincide with a membership event.
- *Secrets of the Dead: Scanning the Pyramids* – detailing the recent discovery of a previously unknown chamber in the Great Pyramid at Giza will air in January 2018.
- *The Great American Read* – a multi-platform event designed to launch a national discussion about what we love to read and why, will beginning in May 2018 and continue through October 2018. A website will go live in January 2018.
- The second season of *Victoria* will begin airing January 14, 2018.

Other Discussion and business

There was a power outage on Sunday that interrupted an episode of *Poldark*. A series of unfortunate events including a tripped circuit breaker led to the backup systems not communicating properly and the station temporarily going dark. Power spikes when power was restored damaged some equipment and reset many systems (which may have led to the difficulty Bob had calling in). Viewers are being notified that the interrupted *Poldark* episode is being re-aired, and equipment is being replaced or repaired as damage is noted. Cary will follow up with the technical staff to ensure that the system for calling in to the meeting next month is working.

Shaun raised the topic of scheduling CAB meetings. Those present noted that the current schedule works for them; however, Shaun will check with those not present regarding their conflicts and whether another day or time would be better.

James Albrecht attended the CAB meeting in June and indicated interest in joining the CAB. He says he has submitted an application. However, as an application has not yet been received. Shaun will reach out to him to obtain a copy of his application.

After a brief investigation, it was decided that there are not sufficient instructions on the KSPS website regarding submitting applications to join the CAB. Emily volunteered to write brief instructions for inclusion on the website and will send them to Cary and Carl Heidel to add.

Shaun suggested that a new staff member be invited to attend a CAB meeting each month so the CAB can become more familiar with KSPS and what staff members do. Shaun also asked that we be able to view promos of upcoming specials or series. Cary will look into both of these suggestions.

Other Discussion

The next CAB meeting will be held on Thursday, December 14, 2017 at 4:00 p.m. at the KSPS offices.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:18 p.m.

Action items

Shaun:

- Communicate with CAB members not present regarding scheduling preferences.
- Contact James Albrecht regarding his application to join the CAB.

Emily:

- Forward approved October minutes to Dawn and Linda.
- Write brief instructions regarding how to submit applications for CAB.

Cary:

- Follow up with technical staff regarding ability to call in to meetings.
- Coordinate with Carl the addition of the instructions Emily writes for submitting applications for the CAB to the webpage.
- Look into having a new staff member attend each CAB meeting and showing promos at meetings.

All CAB members:

- Consider what kind of locally created programming would be beneficial to the community;
- Continue gathering feedback on programming from friends, family, community members;
- Continue recruiting new applicants.