

CAB members attending in person: Shaun Higgins (Chair), Becka Shelley, Consuelo Larrabee, Vanessa Strange

Members attending by phone: Bob Morrison

Members absent: Terrie Ashby-Scott, Emily Geddes

KSPS staff attending: Cary Balzer (Program Director), Gary Stokes (General Manager)

Public attendees: none

Opening Business

A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 5:37 pm at the North Spokane County Library

The minutes from the 9/14/17 meeting were approved (motion: Consuelo, second: Becka). 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

Gary reports that 11.9 million viewer watched the first episode of Ken Burn's Vietnam. Also noted, The Wall That Heals had 13,500 visitors here in Spokane during a 5 day time period. There was varied responses by viewers, and reports suggest not every viewer watched all episodes. Shaun relayed input from a group he is associated with in regards to the series; some of the veterans found it too hard to watch, most did not watch all episodes, and some said it was "too soon" to watch. Consuelo shared that she enjoyed hearing the tapes featuring the presidents during the series. The DVD sales for Vietnam did remarkably well.

CPB currently has the house/senate support but the whole of congress still has to approve, wherein the committee will decide if federal budget cuts will be in fiscal year 2020. Federal funding through CPB is about 1 million dollars, 18% of the KSPS operating budget.

Comcast doesn't want the Kids 24/7 on channel 19, so for now channel 19 will be the best of KSPS, featuring documentaries. Other ideas will be explored for channel 19. There will be work on the operations side to fix towers, and to check transmitters for the outlying areas. T-mobile will fund that as they own them.

The new Education Director, Bukola Breczinski, has been working with Spokane Public Schools, higher education entities and home school resources on curriculums that can be developed in partnership with KSPS. KSPS has also partnered with Hifumi En for an upcoming project. This will include speaking with Japanese-American citizens about what life was like for them during WW2.

The City Council meeting was filmed and aired this last Monday.

Program Manager Report

Cary echo's Gary's report on Vietnam by stating there was 11.9 million viewers for the first episode. It was 6 share, 300% more than average prime time viewing. All 10 episodes streamed 7.2 million times.

Shaun asked if the numbers were in for the rest of Vietnam, the answer being no, just the first episode. Cary received a lot of feedback about Vietnam prior to it actually airing.

The next Ken Burn's project will be on Country music and air in 2019. KSPS will participate in the American Graduate Day 2017 on October 14. It is a four-hour live broadcast regarding the dropout crisis in America. During this, there will be a locally produced vignette about Chris Gradoville from Spokane. Election Specials will air on 2 dates and show debates for local city council seats. The Great American Read will debut in May with 8 one hour programs. It is designed to stimulate people's interest in reading some of the top 100 fiction books over the summer, then weigh in in September. PBS has earned more than 48 Emmy nominations including 12 for Frontline, 11 for POV, and 10 for Independent Lens. Also in the schedule will be a new Nova and a Live from the Lincoln Center performance with Falsettos. Sesame Street will begin its 49th season. Thomas the Train will soon end on PBS and Pinkalicious & Peterrific will replace it.

The new education tab is up and running on the website. Cary also pointed out a TED talk video also on the website, Fears About Screen Time For Kids-And Why They're Not True.

Other Discussion

Consuelo thought Space Race was well done and enjoyed the Vietnam series. She relayed her neighbor with a 3 year old loves Splash and Bubbles.

Becka asked about the likelihood of getting Reading Rainbow, Mr. Rogers and Shining Time Station back. Cary states they aren't very attainable as they are quite costly.

Gary asked Vanessa, as someone who works with kids, for input on KSPS involvement. She says we are on the right track with the Kids 24/7 station. She suggest and offers to get input from parents regarding PBS during Story Time at the library. She also suggests utilizing the different library locations. For example, we could have the Deer Park library promote and talk up a public CAB meeting if we so choose to hold one there in the future.

Shaun asked if there was a plan for the new education director to work with the library. Gary says yes, she will be working with the library in addition to the schools and colleges. As stated before, homeschools will be reached out to along with working with curriculum directors for the city public schools and rural schools.

In regards to the Great American Read, Shaun asked if the station could do a short piece on Canadian Nobel Peace Prize winners and writers. He would like to see more Canadians highlighted, not just Americans. He also suggested having the top 50 Canadian books listed on the website.

The next CAB meeting will be held on Thursday, November 9th, 2017 at 4:00 p.m. at the KSPS studios.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

Action items

Emily:

- Forward approved September minutes to Dawn and Linda.

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.