

Williamsburg Advisory Council Minutes
Monday, November 6, 2023

Members Present: Sean Driscoll, Judy Knudson, Chloe Kougias, Sylvia Payne, Megan Rhyne, Patricia Rublein, and John Shulson

Staff Present: Sydney Felker, Nancy Rogan, Shannon Sawyer, and Bert Schmidt

- I. WELCOME – Judy Knudson called the meeting to order.
- II. PRESIDENT’S COMMENTS – Bert Schmidt shared that beloved employee Dory Morrison passed away two weeks ago. He announced that the station is hiring a Vice President of News. If and when that happens, he will bring them to one of the next WAC meetings to meet everyone. He shared information about the investigative journalism team’s reporting on imminent domain and that the story has been well received.
- III. DEVELOPMENT REPORT – On behalf of Tom Burton, Nancy Rogan reported that all revenue lines exceeded budget for the first quarter of fiscal year 2024. She shared that the test migration into the new Blackbaud database failed, which has caused the new live date for the migration to move to mid-February 2024. The WHRO Holiday Reception will be on Thursday, November 16 at 6pm. Next year, there will be an event on the Peninsula as well. Nancy shared that WHRO has booked Geoff Bennett, co-anchor of PBS NewsHour, to be our special guest at the 2024 Hunter B. Andrews Society Producer’s Circle Dinner on Thursday, May 9, 2024.
- IV. SPECIAL GUEST – Chloe Kougias from WETA joined the meeting to share a bit about what she does with community engagement. She provides grant-funding for stations to put on community engagement events. She also helps create discussion guides, screening reels, etc. to aid stations in putting on these events. Chloe’s advisory council is comprised of stations, and she enjoys hearing how stations are creatively taking the content and reaching out to different pockets of their communities. Stations provide input back to her in terms of what assets are needed, etc. and it helps inform the work they do at WETA.
- V. CONTENT REPORT – Nancy Rogan shared that November is National Native American Heritage Month and that WHRO will be airing special programming around that. The final season of Doc Martin has begun airing on Thursday evenings at 8pm. It is also available to stream on Passport. Nancy shared promotions for the documentary To My Best Friend from the Start, the podcast Stars Among Us, and the potential upcoming series Intergalactic. On Tuesday, December 5 at 12pm, there will be a virtual event around WHRO’s investigative reporting on imminent domain. The final News Pub will be on Wednesday, November 29 at Nansemond Brewery in Suffolk.
- VI. OTHER BUSINESS – Patricia Rublein shared that the Williamsburg City Council is going to approve the launch of a performance hall and that it should be open by 2026.
- VII. FUTURE MEETINGS – The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 5, 2024. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.