

Williamsburg Advisory Council Minutes
Monday, February 5, 2024

Signature: Judy Knudson
Judy Knudson, Chair

Date: 2-5-24

Members Present: Leslie Bowie, Leslie Coe, Sean Driscoll, Judy Knudson, Sylvia Payne, Patricia Rublein, and John Shulson

Staff Present: Tom Burton, Sydney Felker, Todd Holcomb, Maurice Jones, Kate Pringle, Nancy Rogan, and Bert Schmidt

I. WELCOME – Judy Knudson called the meeting to order. Two new staff members were introduced, Maurice Jones and Todd Holcomb.

II. PRESIDENT’S COMMENTS – Bert Schmidt shared that the Spelling Bee is coming up and will be recorded in advance just as last year. He reported that eMediaVA lost half a million dollars of funding from the state but that the station is hopeful funding will be restored in the state’s next budget. He shared that starting next fiscal year, Virginia Humanities will fund WHRO so that the station can fund humanities grants throughout the region. He also shared that WHRO just received funding specifically for freelancers to do arts reporting.

Bert introduced Maurice Jones, Vice President of News. Maurice shared that the goal now is to scale up the newsroom’s operations over the next two years to show potential investors what they are investing in. WHRO wants to be the first choice for news in the region.

III. DEVELOPMENT REPORT – Tom Burton reported that as of November, there are approximately 24,200 members, 10,300 of which are sustainers. He shared that we have 254 families who have included WHRO in their will or estate plan as part of the Legacy Society. He reported that this December was the best membership month in WHRO’s history, and that corporate support is currently strong at 70% of where it needs to be for the year.

IV. CONTENT REPORT – Nancy Rogan shared promotions for Gospel and Exodus: Homecoming. She shared that Jana Lee Ross is starting today as WHRO’s new classical host. A new radio program, WHRO Weekly Edition, is now airing Fridays at noon on WHRV. The Out of the Box Emerging Artists Concert Series is taking place on Thursday evenings from now through March 7 at the Sandler Center.

V. OTHER BUSINESS – Patricia Rublein spoke about the new sports complex and performance hall coming to Williamsburg. Judy Knudson spoke about the current study regarding Williamsburg-James City County Public Schools.

VI. FUTURE MEETINGS – The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 6, 2024. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.