

## **CAB MEETING MINUTES – JUNE 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

### **CAB Members Present:**

Season Roberts, Lacy Shirey, Peg Volk, Al Schweizer, Alison Schoew, Felicia Mebane, Margie Wiley, Marcy Germanotta, Tom Isenhour, Hoda Zaki, Jevon Baskerville, Ben Lynerd, Uday Khambhammettu,

### **WHRO Members Present:**

Nancy Rogan, Lisa Godley, Mechelle Hankerson

### **ICE BREAKER**

Season opened the meeting with an Ice Breaker which consisted of seven pictures of locations in the WHRO purview i.e. Fort Monroe; King Neptune on VAB Boardwalk.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Minutes of December 13, 2022 & March 14, 2023 were unanimously approved.

### **CURRENT COMMUNITY TRENDS/ISSUES**

Nancy reiterated CAB is an FCC requirement. Their role is to offer advice on community issues, comment on programming/initiative. Members should connect “both ways” with their respective communities. Highlight issues of note and also communicate to the communities about WHRO efforts.

Lacy asked Mechelle where coverage is on the Affordable Housing Crises. Lacy said homeless people with pets are showing up at the animal shelter. And that it is a tearing emotional last resort. The homeless shelters will not allow pets so most avoid that choice until it’s a last resort. Mechelle explained that both the grant ran out and also the lead reporter went on paternity leave. Ryan) is now back and the news department is figuring out how to best to plug him back in.

Mechelle also reported that Ryan, formerly the WHRO “Race Reporter” will focus on business, growth & development, housing, transportation, economy of Hampton Roads “regular” people, military, veterans and climate change issues.

Nancy announced a Hampton Roads Community Fund grant toward operations/journalism. (\$300,000 over 2 years in a row with option to re-apply for two more years).

Margie shared a print out from the “Safe House Project” outlining information on the horrific issue of sex-trafficking in the Hampton Roads community. She would be glad to facilitate connection for the News Department. Margie is volunteering with the organization and Mechelle said she will follow-up.

Lacy added that the YWCA also deals with harboring victims of sex-trafficking. Felicia pointed out need to identify root causes.

Lacy said some cities have hotels that present printed information in their bathrooms. Jevon inquired about the distinction of human vs. sex-trafficking.

**According to the U.S. State Department, Human trafficking, is defined as "the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion."**

**The Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency, or ICE, is one of the bodies that investigates and prosecutes human trafficking. The FBI is another.**

**Trafficking is not just limited to the sex industry. It can also includes forced labor and "involves significant violations of labor, public health, and human rights standards worldwide."**

**Falling under the banner of trafficking are different sub-types, like sex and child trafficking, and forced labor trafficking. According to ICE, there is a fair amount of overlap in these sub-types, which is why the term "human trafficking" is used.**

Nancy mentioned the fact of foster kids coming of age and being kicked out "to face the world" on their own adds to the victim pool.

Alison gave kudos to the Investigative Reporting Team. Terrific coverage!

Lisa reported that this Thursday is the **Juneteenth Show on Another View** and it will be broadcast live from the parking lot with food trucks and guests highlighting the history and current status of Juneteenth celebrations in the community.

Lisa also announced that in Spring 2024 WHRO will present its first national documentary, "Against The Current" depicting life on the Eastern Shore of Virginia. The impact of climate change is seriously challenging the livelihoods of the citizens on this fragile peninsula i.e. water intrusion forcing the need of new septic systems, etc.

Lisa also reiterated that staff is still putting shows together for CURATE and if anyone can suggest artists that might be highlighted please contact her.

Margie will give Lisa contact info on a contestant in her community for the Top Chef program. Alison inquired if there had been any blow-back on the change for "Dimensions". She personally missed the printed TV schedule.

Nancy responded that ideas were floating around to address the issue members could request the monthly printed schedule.

Mechelle mentioned that on Fridays most of the news staff leaves early and there are generally two staff that stay on the job. She has suggested to them that they actually go out on “field trips” to familiarize themselves with the communities and territories and people in them. Mechelle admitted that WHRO News is not yet looked upon or used as a main news source for most of the citizens in Hampton Roads. Some things that may help improve access to the news provided will be when the new website is finished and then the WHRO app improvement can be addressed.

Also, the news department is collaborating with other entities i.e. the WHRO Military Reporter has connected WHRO with 9 other stations.

Also building a relationship with WUNC especially with political coverage. Connecting as well with North Carolina Health News.

Mechelle is meeting with Virginia Public Access Project to find ways to collaborate there. Also working on a Digital Voter Guide and hopes to make a print edition with more content that citizens can take with them to the polls.

Hoda brought up the existence of the League of Women Voters and that the Norfolk chapter is strong.

Ben offered that each semester all his students as an assignment develop a comprehensive voter guide to their local elections – non-partisan, and may need to interview candidates who don’t have a digital presence, i.e. The Commissioner of Revenue.

Mechelle suggested that she and Ben discuss the possibility of developing student interns from his program with WHRO News.

Mechelle signed off saying she and Ryan had been up after 2 a.m. covering the vote at the VAB School Board meeting.

## **STATION UPDATE**

- Nancy previewed current and new programs. “Marriage”, “Little Richard”, “Buffalo Soldiers”, “Endeavor – Final Season”.
- In particular a special American Experience airing for Pride Month, “Casa Susanna”.
- Nancy attended the PBS Annual Conference and announced a Henry Louis “Skip” Gates program about Gospel music is in the works!
- Hoda reported on a WHRO-New Pub experience in Newport News that Bert Schmidt spoke about the state of local journalism and his vision for philanthropy and what WHRO hopes to achieve in the local news world.

- Nancy mentioned a \$1 million E. Y. Davis Foundation to the Endowment Fund with the present endowment hoping to be \$20 million for journalism.
- Nancy also reported that last Thursday was the WOMEN IN SKILLED CAREERS SUMMIT which was designed and produced by the Hampton Roads Workforce Council (HRWC) and WHRO Public Media. There was a welcome video from Virginia's First Lady and also heard from Dr. Latitia D. McCane, Director of Education at The Apprentice School at Newport News Shipbuilding.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

- Season announced that all CAB members and partners are invited to a casual meet-up for YNot Wednesdays @ Legal Sea Foods Town Center VAB @ 5:30 p.m. Invitations will be sent out through email soon.
- Nancy recognized that this was Uday's last meeting as a member of the CAB and thanked him sincerely for his leadership and team efforts during his tenure. Uday was gifted with some cool WHRO swag!
- Uday spoke of his time on the board as fulfilling and the important relationships developed.
- He also announced that the World Cultural Festival held in Hampton Roads in March drew 5,000 people. Additionally, the International World Cultural Festival will be held on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. September 29th & 30th, 2023. Norfolk State University choir will be participating in the "1,000 Person Choir"!
- Nancy ended the meeting handing out "work like a girl" notebooks & stickers.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Peg Volk