

WHRO Community Advisory Board Meeting

June 11, 2019 6-7:30 pm

In attendance: John Miller, Denise Fisher, Tom Isenhour, Marcella Germanotta, Valeria Jessup, Peg Volk, Uday Khambhammettu, Al Schweizer, Alison Schoew, Lacy Kuller, Chris O'Brien, Alicia Defonzo, Charlotte Zito

Not in attendance: Robert "Butch" Bracknell, Cindy Caskey, Cindy Cutler, Richard Dyer, Sibel Galindez, Kevin Martingayle, Felicia Mebane

- I. Welcome: John Miller introduced the meeting with an ice breaker question: What car did you learn to drive in (or what was your first car) and was it manual or automatic?
- II. The board voted to approve the minutes from the March 2019 meeting unanimously.
- III. John Miller, chair of the board, asked if we would consider creating additional committees for the board for television, education, and radio. After some discussion the board determined that we should examine that idea over the summer.
- IV. The producers discussed current community trends and issues.
 - a. Lisa Godley announced an upcoming Another View live broadcast from Yorktown at the American Revolution Museum with a preview of the Forgotten Soldier exhibit on June 28, 2019. She encouraged members of the board to RSVP for seats at the event and to arrive by 11:00 am for the live broadcast.
 - b. Paul Bibeau discussed issues that Hear Say with Cathy Lewis will explore over the summer and fall, including the upcoming elections, gun control, and sea level rise. A major sea level report published by ODU is going to come out in the fall and probably make news. Alison Schoew remarked that she and her husband recently did a photo shoot on Tangier Island and it provides compelling visual evidence of land disappearing due to climate change.
 - c. Danny Epperson announced that on November 8, WHRO would air season 4 of Curate. The new season will feature art created for the 1619 Yorktown/ Jamestown celebration as well as sculptures in the Botanical Gardens and writing generated at the Muse Writing Center. He encourages board members to email him submission ideas, particularly artists with an online presence. Cinema 15 continues this week with the classic film *From Here to Eternity* and will feature many other great films, both classic and contemporary, throughout the summer. WHRO will be hosting a screening of *Stand by Me* on September 28, perhaps with a celebrity guest speaker either in person or by virtual means.
 - d. The producers took feedback from the board after their presentations. Lacy Kuller talked about an open house she recently attended for TQ systems, a German company that is coming to Hampton Roads. She also connected the Hear Say team with Steven Kirkpatrick of Safe House who is hosting a symposium about sex trafficking at the Chrysler Museum on August 15.
 - e. Uday Khambhammettu shared his concerns in the aftermath of the Virginia Beach shooting at the Municipal Complex. He worked with many of the victims and he is also involved with a program that promotes meditation and mindfulness as solutions to problems of mental illness that plague our communities.

- f. Marcella Germanotta talked about a Girl Scout who created a project to educate high school students about mental illness and lessen the stigma surrounding issues of mental health.
 - g. Alison Schoew and Chris O'Brien spoke for all of us when they said how much they appreciated Cathy Lewis hosting her special two-hour Hear Say program in the aftermath of the shooting. She is uniquely capable of addressing those issues in our community and her voice was a comfort.
 - h. Lacy Kuller mentioned that it was a shame to have to change the station away from WHRV in order to hear breaking news of that magnitude. Charlotte Zito expressed a similar concern. Both missed initial news of the shooting because they were listening to NPR and received breaking news from sources out of New York.
 - i. Alicia Defonzo brought our attention to the problem of plastic pollution in our local waterways and hoped that WHRO would make a more focused effort to address the problem. Nancy Rogan shared the most recent Greenbeats film, "Skip the Straw," with our group to show how the station is working to alleviate plastic pollution.
- V. Nancy Rogan provided updates on new WHRO programming. She shared the new Greenbeats films, and Danny Epperson said that the station is working to create a similar series aimed at middle and high school audiences. Nancy discussed the Sinking Cities Initiative and shared a film about oyster cultivation in our local waterways that has been funded by the Rise Resilience Challenge. Nancy also talked about the upcoming programming around the moon landing and encouraged board members to record their "moon memories." There will be a moon landing children's program at the Slover Library on Saturday, July 13 at 2:00 pm. The Emerging Leaders Board plans to host a moon hoax event on July 18 at Croc's Restaurant in Virginia Beach. Also, Nancy encourages everyone to respond to the Performance Partnership review email that she sent out for us to use to consider potential arts grant recipients. WHRO is currently conducting interviews for a News Director, who will then hire a two-member team to make up the station's new journalism department. Lastly, the station is celebrating the 50th anniversary of Sesame Street this year. Please send your Sesame Street memories with the station potentially to be shared on air!
- VI. Lacy Kuller reported about the Membership Committee meeting on June 10 in which she, as well as Marcella Germanotta and Charlotte Zito, discussed the four applicants to fill the two vacant positions on the board. Lacy presented the candidates that the committee chose, Margaret Wiley and Season Roberts, and the board voted unanimously to approve those candidates. There will be a new member orientation in the fall on a date to be determined by the chair and vice chair as well as the Membership Committee.
- VII. In other business, Peg Volk announced the first annual Eastern Shore Ukelele Festival happening this Saturday, June 15 in Cape Charles. It is free and open to the public! The board took a group photo in the lobby with the Sesame Street characters and enjoyed some fun conversation after the meeting. Special thanks to Valeria Jessup for bringing her delicious chocolate hummus to share!