

## CAB Meeting Minutes, 14 Dec 2021:

CAB Members: Tom, Al, Charlotte, Uday, Alison Tem, Alison Schoew, Bud, Denise, Peg, Lacey, Chris, Felicia, Marcy

WHRO Members: Nancy, Lisa, Paul, Mechelle

- 1834: Uday begins with opening comments, opens to Nancy and Charlotte, and then introduces producers
- 1839: Mechelle gives staffing updates: Jonah will be leaving (to ODU Communications Dept), Sam Turkin will be going to WGBH in Boston. Newsroom is very happy for both as they transfer and explore new opportunities. Sam is finishing a \$10k grant project from the Pulitzer center regarding sea level rise. WHRO has used some of the money to do freelance work. Reaching the end of the grant, and the content has been received well. Person replacing Sam will be covering sea level rise.
  - 1839: Newsroom will be restructured a little bit in the new year. WHRO did host a formal focus group and will incorporate those recommendations in the new newsroom structure. Newsroom will carve out time to focus on local governments. Will focus on recurring and large issues and dig deep, as opposed to doing a broad survey of local government issues. Virginian Pilot is reducing its reporting staff. The newsroom is hoping to fill those reporting voids. Newsroom is expecting to receive significant funding next year.
  - 1845: Regarding WHRO's new show - want to make it clear that WHRO is not trying to replace HearSay. It will be a Mon-Fri morning show from 0900-1000, cutting an hour of 1A. Will go deeper into some of the issues that are discussed during morning edition. Will hire two hosts for the show. Host for primary listing will be up before Christmas. Search for secondary host will occur after primary host is onboard. Want to make sure that leadership is staffing the show appropriately to support broadcast five days per week.
  - 1850: Question from Lacey- Is BBC Newshour being cut? Answer: "Keep BBC, cutting 1A." Would it be helpful for us to reach out to you, particularly regarding government issues? "Yes! We also have money for freelancers. CAB members are always encouraged to reach out to us with ideas."
  - 1853: Mechelle and Paul talk about how it is always helpful to have ears to the ground in every city in Hampton Roads.
- 1854: Nancy recommends listening to the stories as opposed to reading the stories to get the "feel" behind the stories.
- 1855: Mechelle says to check-out "At a Crossroads" (Sam's podcast).
- 1855: Paul discusses "Secret War of Willis Hodges," podcast which explores different areas of the underground railroad in Hampton Roads. Willis Hodges was a civil rights activist living in Princess Anne County. In 1842, he forms a secret society to help enslaved people escape. Podcast is an exploration of who might have been in that secret society. Hodges is connected to John Brown. Podcast episodes explore the social network of the secret society of free black families who helped people escape slavery. One episode talks about the specific topography of Hampton Roads and how it relates to their escape. Also talks about importance of Norfolk in the

underground railroad. Talked to historical experts about John Brown's plan to go to Norfolk after Harper's Ferry.

- 1903: Paul also had a conversation with a member of the city council to build a memorial for Willis Hodges in Virginia Beach. Until WHRO brought light to Willis Hodges, this area really did not know about his story. Pharrell Williams is a fan of the podcast and mentioned the podcast at a recent speech at NSU.
- 1906: Nancy mentions that William Whitehurst is another name that popped up that also has connections to this story.
- 1906: Mechelle mentions that one of her goals is to get Pharrell to attend an event at WHRO in 2022.
- 1907: Lisa discusses next town hall called "Beneath the Surface" discussing education and equity. Promoting on Another View. This Thursday, Dr. Keith Newby will return. Working on African American history course for state of Virginia to produce 10 episodes for high schoolers. Also putting together a documentary called "The Inheritance Project." Final production will take place at the Attucks Theater.
- 1910: Nancy opens the floor to the CAB.
  - 1910: Lacey talks about how Chesapeake is potentially stopping recycling, cancelling curbside recycling with six-month notice. Would be a setback, however, recycling is just one aspect of conservation. Some municipalities have passed plastic bag tax fee; no Hampton Roads municipalities have passed that law yet. Walmart just announced that they will now charge a fee for plastic bags.
  - 1913: Lacey would like to know what other cities (aside from Chesapeake) are doing to ensure there is diversity across workforce development programs
  - 1915: Nancy mentions how there is still a drive to keep Work Like a Girl alive. Still cultural issues for women going into primarily male jobs – making sure employers are ready for women once they are in those jobs. Wrote a grant to get women together to try to address these issues.
  - 1917: Denise discusses how there is intimidation used sometimes in male-oriented jobs.
  - 1918: Alicia talks about tech disparity at ODU (and likely other educational institutions as well). Students with less access to technology are still being impacted. Would like to talk about disparity from its source.
  - 1921: Lisa responds with how educational inequities are something that could be discussed in Beneath the Surface.
  - 1921: Tom discusses importance of defining "minimum technology requirements" necessary for successful completion of academic studies.
  - 1923: Alicia made no textbooks required in her classes to help save students money. More teachers are opting for these measures because students were so broke that they weren't buying their books. Dr. Mebane says that NSU experiences the same issues.
  - 1925: Tom says that problem (excessive costs in college) lies with publishing companies that have a monopoly.
  - 1927: Alison Tem mentions two military issues (personnel refusing the vaccine and attrition due to the Navy's COVID policies and lack of port calls) that are expected to have major impacts in the next few years.

- 1934: Peg discusses ShoreLine (an Eastern Shore newsletter), in which an article was published discussing WHRO's education initiatives.
- 1935: Al introduces new Membership Committee members (will change recruitment process, holding off on recruiting new members).
- 1936: Charlotte enjoys WHRO's e-mail notifications.
- 1937: Al mentions squeaky radio on FM.
- 1937: Nancy discusses Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities (VCIC) focus groups, particularly regarding recruitment.
- 1939: Uday adjourns the meeting.