

## **CAB MEETING MINUTES – JUNE 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

CAB Members Present:

Uday Khambhammettu, Season Roberts, Alicia deFonzo, Charlotte Hudgins Zito, Lacy Shirey, Chris O'Brien, Peg Volk, Al Schweizer, Alison Schoew, Denise Fisher, Felicia Mebane, Margie Wiley, Marcy Germanotta, Bud Ward, Tom Isenhour

WHRO Members:

Nancy Rogan, Lisa Godley, Mechelle Hankerson

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Minutes of March 8, 2022 were unanimously approved.

### **CHAIR'S COMMENTS**

Uday opened meeting by welcoming all and recognizing that Nancy is recovered from COVID and back at it!

And also that this is Uday's last meeting as Chairman and now Charlotte will step up as Chair and Season has signed on to be Vice-Chair. (Round of applause for all!!)

Charlotte noted that CAB members will be required to be present for future meetings (not virtual).

Uday reminded all to re-read by-laws and Nancy noted that updated by-laws will be sent out soon.

Uday also reminded all that members need to sign their contract.

### **PRODUCERS**

Lisa reported that the station was awarded 5 Emmys this past weekend! Additionally, the station was awarded 4 Virginia Association of Broadcasters Awards.

(Chris requested a list of the winning programs and Nancy said she would get that out to all.)

Lisa is hosting Another View while Barbara is off for two weeks celebrating her birthday.

This week's program will focus on the SCOTUS decision to nullify Roe v. Wade.

Next week will be highlighting Black entrepreneurs in the Hampton Roads area specifically the 1865 Brewing Co. in the Phoebus neighborhood of Hampton.

Lisa is beginning a new season of Curate and looking for content suggestions from CAB.

Marcy spoke about the anniversary of Title IX and woman athletes and will forward info to Lisa.

Bud offered that both Roe v Wade and Climate Change are stories that go together, particularly in their impact regarding equity. Also, that SCOTUS order will cause EPA to lose oversight of coal operated/power plant emissions. And also taking away restrictions on motor vehicle emissions.

Alicia pointed out that last Friday's decision on Roe overshadowed another decision concerning Miranda Rights and the fact that police officers may no longer be required to read these rights to suspects. Also, suggested some light on what rights Gov. Youngkin is attempting to change in our State.

Mechelle reported that she gave a Journalism presentation to the Board of Governors today and that fundraising efforts are moving ahead. Commitments are coming in which means the newsroom will be able to expand with three new positions. An Audience Editor highlighting Social Media and even a Daily Newsletter likely in 2023, a digital producer, and also a General Assignment Reporter.

It has ultimately been decided not to replace the noon hour with another local talk program (previously HearSay) and instead buttress the department with more staff.

Another View is proceeding ahead and Lisa, Barbara & Mechelle have been in discussions regarding new kinds of outreach to target younger people in general and people of color in particular who would most benefit from the content provided by Another View.

Crizti Walsh, formerly of 96X and BobFM, is the new Morning Edition host beginning in July.

Also, WHRO has acquired Virginia Center for Investigative Journalism. The Center is fully remote and broadcasts from Charlottesville. It was started by two Virginian Pilot journalists and they will visit the station to further discuss collaborative opportunities such as providing daily news input.

A Pulitzer Center Grant will be used to do a story on Affordable Housing. A topic might be "Financialization" a term alluding to Hedge Funds acquiring properties and holding onto them for a more favorable market.

Mechelle said they want to make it interactive and 1<sup>st</sup> person stories. Perhaps even a community forum down the road. Also, an idea about reaching out to similar size cities to find out what they are doing to address this problem.

Lacey mentioned the crises with the homeless shelters being overcrowded and some of the homeless have pets that they can't find appropriate housing because pets may not be allowed.

Alicia suggested short video messaging about this resource and Charlotte suggested that it needs to be solution oriented.

Mechelle is reaching out for people to submit audio/video stories.

There was a short but lively discussion about HOA's (Home Owner Associations) and how they are expensive and demanding.

Bottom line, as Mechelle put it, housing is off the charts!

Please don't hesitate to send ideas for news stories.

Alicia brought up book banning is still going on and a story worth telling.

Chris suggested it may be a good time for a reporter to visit the Eastern Shore and its Latino community of businesses that are proliferating throughout the by-ways of the towns.

Season mentioned Technopref in Cape Charles has hired many Latinos to help build the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel sections.

Charlotte gave a shout out to the news division for covering local governance meetings.

Lacy brought up "Displacement Regulation" and issues with Chesapeake City Recycling.

Charlotte requested that Denise bring back her "Volunteer Stars" board when back at meeting.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

Al thanked Charlotte and Nancy for their help and guidance during the recruitment process.

5 out of 20 names will be chosen. The Meet & Greet for the new members with Studio Tour will be August 16<sup>th</sup>.

Uday reminded us that we had to vote on the new Chair and Vice-Chair...a unanimous vote in the affirmative for both were cast!

Margie thanked Nancy for all her good work and support for the CAB's.

## **STATION UPDATE**

Nancy announced a special event in conjunction with "Around the World in 80 Days" and a Jules Verne Night on July 21<sup>st</sup> at the Steam punk Bar where there will also be a costume contest. Dr. Shulman, an expert on all things "Verne" will be on board to lead discussions.

Nancy thanked all who participated in the Housing Survey...she received good responses.

In September there will air a Ken Burns series on the Holocaust. Seeking a grant to help develop a discussion group in conjunction with broadcast. Possible topic, "As a refugee fleeing your home, what would you take with you?"

Ken Burns also has a new documentary about the Youth Mental Health Crises. WHRO is looking for funding to do programming around the topic with a local focus.

Grants...kudos to Paige Hamm our grant writer who brought in \$143,000 over budget this past year.

Nancy will do a CAB day for fundraising drive and assures good food will be had!

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Uday is now working on WORLD CULTURE FESTIVAL scheduled for September 2023. Twenty-five cities in the U.S. will do local celebrations.

Alicia is having her book (The Time Left Between Us) release party on September 3, 2022 at Elations Brewing on Colley Avenue. She will be roasted. We're all invited! Nancy will coordinate.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Peg Volk