

DRAFT MINUTES
WORT Board of Directors
Regular Monthly Meeting
May 15th, 2019 | 7:00 PM
Vinyl Library, Madison

All directors present: David Devereaux-Weber (President), Stuart Levitan (Vice-President), Chali Pittman (Secretary), Martin Kehrein (Treasurer), Jerry Chernow, Doug Holtz (Staff Representative), Katherine Hoveland, Kurt Kobelt, Paul Novak, Eric Finch, Gilman Halsted

Meeting called to order at 7:01 pm and an agenda adopted. [April 2019 minutes](#) approved. No communications from the public.

New Business

- Report on audit from Bruce from Wegner CPAs. Audit went more smoothly than usual this year. Thank you to Doug, Susan, Suzanne and Dan for their work. Review of the [Final Financial Statement](#), [Final Deficiencies Statement](#), and the [Final Communication Statement](#). Note that the auditors reevaluated underwriting to be a contribution rather than a fee-for-service or an exchange transaction, which increased our net assets somewhat. We have implemented new internal financial controls, much better than they were years ago (and many thanks to receptionists for a lot of that). **We are in a reasonable financial position, in a position comparable to other nonprofits.**
- The WORT Block Party is this Sunday. Doug has done a lot of quick thinking with respect to plenty of the details. Note that we have switched to recyclable beer cups (just have to use up the non-reusable cups first).
- Four applications have been received for three board seats. The eligible voter list has been posted in the back hallway. You can check out an absentee ballot, or vote at the WORT Annual Meeting on Sunday, June 30th at 2pm at Art In. View the candidate information here: <https://www.wortfm.org/2019-wort-annual-meeting-info/>.
- Discussion of ways to make voting better and easier for volunteers in future years—through website? Via email?

Committee and Staff Reports

The board reviewed of [Balance Sheet](#) and [P & L Comparison to 2018 at April 30](#) for the Finance Committee report. The board reviewed the programming report, and heard that better editing for newsletters in the future is an issue. The deadline for Saturday Late Night show is May 24, and one application has been submitted. Show is open to all formats.

Under the bylaws, it is the deadline for the Board to make a recommendation to the membership as to the various bylaws changes and amendments. Paul pointed out that 6.1e refers to 6.8a, which doesn't exist, and instead should refer to 9.1.

Discussion of proposed change to section 3.9c., particularly over the word choice of “supervise.” Debate over two terms: whether the board “supervising” the staff is different than the board “oversee,” “direct,” or “manage” the staff, and what constitutes station “operations.” Does that suggest that the board is overseeing the day-to-day operations of WORT—authority which belongs to the staff collective? Who supervises the staff—the board or the staff collective? And is that different than the board being *responsible* for the board? Paul believes that managing the activities of WORT is less controlling than hiring and supervising the staff, and Stu disagreed.

The Bylaws committee recommended to the membership to accept the proposed Bylaw amendments, and Kurt seconded the motion. Two nays (Eric, believing that “supervise” should be “manage” in 3.9c, and Paul) and one abstention (Jerry, uneasy with how frequently the Bylaws Committee is proposing changes), and the rest yays.

The Personnel Committee had its six-month check-in with Suzanne Gernandt, the recent bookkeeper hire. Discussion over whether the staff check-in vs. review process is the same. Doug reminded that reviews and check-ins for non-collective staff (i.e. part-time staff) are at the discretion of their supervisor, not the Personnel Committee, but in the case of Suzanne, it made sense for the Personnel Committee to conduct her review because her position impacts many facets of WORT. **Chali moved to refer back to the Personnel with request for the staff to weigh in, Gil seconded, and unanimous approval.**

Dave gave a brief update on the transmitter. The Engineering Committee is working on doing minor fix-ups to the middle studio, and is also working on an emergency automation system (they might work with the programming committee on the latter).

The board accepted the report of Technology and Facilities Director, which had updates on IT, workstations, data backups and archives, servers, middle studio. Mishap at the tower when techs were replacing our feed horn.

The board accepted the report of the Listener-Sponsor Development Director. The pledge drive is coming up June 3-9.

The board accepted the report of the Music Director, with updates on new and departing volunteers and new shows. The board accepted the report of the Music Assistant, who is hoping again for a unified push toward a digital library.

The board accepted the report of the News, Talk, Public Affairs, which had updates on awards won from the Milwaukee Press Club and updates on new and departing volunteers, new series.

The board accepted the report of the Volunteer Outreach Director, which had updates on soliciting volunteers for the WORT Block Party and compiling the Voter List for the Annual Meeting.

There was a brief update on the Security Committee. In the works: locks on the basement windows, the backdoor camera and the boxes in the front for police and fire department, and key fobs. Some clearing out of broken equipment from the downstairs offices, which prompted a brief discussion over WORT's historical archives and potential documentary pitches from community members.

Kurt is researching the possibility of an attorney who could work pro bono for the station.

Doug moved and Eric seconded to adjourn at 8:42pm.

All volunteers are invited to the WORT Station Meeting on Sunday, June 30th at 2pm at Art In.

The WORT Board of Directors meets every third Wednesday of the month. Upcoming board meeting dates in 2019 are June 19, July 17, August 21, September 18, October 16, November 20, December 18.