

**Vermont PBS  
Community Council Meeting  
November 7, 2014  
Vermont PBS Studios  
Colchester, VT**

Members present: Alisha Sawyer (chair), Steve Alexander (vice chair), Jane Birnn, Nora Jacobsen, Toby Knox, Olga Peters, Leon Walls

Members unable to attend:, Jerry Aldredge Ryan Doyle, Bill Holiday Offie Wortham

Staff Present: Charlie Smith, Chuck Pizer, Joe Merone, Andrea Rosencrantz

Guests: Phayvanh Luekhamhan, Barbara Morrow

## **MINUTES**

### CHAIR'S REMARKS/COUNCIL BUSINESS

Alisha Sawyer called the meeting to order at 12:00. She welcomed the guests. Introductions were made.

A motion was made by Toby Knox, seconded by Steve Alexander to approve the June 2014 meeting minutes. None opposed, motion carried. The minutes will be sent to the Vermont PBS Board and posted on the Vermont PBS website.

### COUNCIL IN THE COMMUNITY

Alisha reported that Jerry Aldredge has been busy with screenings at Catamount Arts. Chuck is hoping to replicate the kids' screenings at other venues around the state. Alisha reported that Ryan was involved in the Wilderness at 50 event. Chuck noted that there were 30 partners involved to celebrate 50 years of the Wilderness Act. It was a great event, and hopes to work with the partners again. Steve Alexander hopes to do more screenings at the Bixby Library. There is great potential in that small community. Alisha presented the Community Council annual report to the Vermont PBS Board of Directors. She felt that they were very receptive and engaged with the best interest of the organization at heart. Toby stated that he was a member of the CEO Search committee. The position attracted over sixty applicants with a wide range of credentials.

### VT PBS' INITIATIVES & COUNCIL INPUT, ROLE AND FEEDBACK

Bryan Holland discussed plans for a website redesign. He is currently working on the new site with more emphasis on local priorities. Once the test site is up, he will ask for feedback and input. The goal is to make the information more easily accessible and to keep it current and fresh.

### STAFF UPDATES

Charlie noted that Vermont PBS was honored by NETA with an Impact Achievement Award. The satellite truck continues to have regular use from news networks. The CEO Search is winding down with in person interviews happening in the next few weeks. The Board will make the final decision. Toby thanked Charlie for his leadership during this time. The station is working with the Flynn to film and air parts of the Jazz Festival. Also, the station is working with the Vermont Humanities Council and the lecture with Salmon Rushdie. Discussions continue with Vermont

Digger for collaborations. The Audit process of FY2014 is complete. The results of FY2014 were not good due to large onetime expenses. The 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of FY2015 is ahead of budget.

Joe Merone stated that the Hockey documentary is due to premiere on December 4<sup>th</sup>. This is a historical documentary of UVM hockey for the past 50 years. Outdoor Journal is in production for a 13<sup>th</sup> season. It will premiere in late January/early February.

Chuck reported on outreach activities. Over 400 kids and adults attended Spooky Saturday. Attendees were from 7 different counties in the state. 58 volunteers helped with the event. At the Governor's Debate, 80 students were in attendance. Screenings have included *Freedom Summer*, *Makers*, *Story of the Jews*, and *The Roosevelts*. Upcoming programs that will be available for screenings are Ken Burns' *The Story of Cancer*, and *The Last Days of Vietnam*. Kids screenings include *Plum Landing* and *Daniel Tiger*.

### OTHER BUSINESS

The Council is always looking for potential members. Representation from the following counties is needed: Bennington, Essex, Orange, Orleans, and Rutland. Any suggestions can be sent to Chuck.

### ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2014-2015

The nominating committee proposed the following slate of officers for 2014-2015: Chair – Steve Alexander, Vice Chair –Toby Knox, Past Chair – Alisha Sawyer. None opposed, motion carried. In order to build a stronger educational tie with the community, a task force will be created. This group would work with Chuck and meet quarterly. Offie Wortham will chair that task force. Anyone else who is interested, let Chuck know.

### NEW BUSINESS

Steve thanked Alisha for her work as chair of the Council and presented her with a plaque of appreciation.

The council discussed meeting dates. In order to forge a better connection with the Board, it was suggested to have the meetings on the same day as Board meetings so members could more easily attend each meeting. The following dates are proposed: January 26<sup>th</sup>, April 20<sup>th</sup>, June 15<sup>th</sup>. This will shift the council meetings to the Board schedule.

Nora Jacobsen discussed the Vermont Youth Film contest. The deadline for entries is April 2015. Workshops are being held around the state in hopes of soliciting entries. She sees Vermont PBS as a partner in this project.

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments at this meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:15.