

Subject: [bfradio] Last night's meeting: Notes

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For those who are interested...Anneke

PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE

5/24/05 meeting minutes, unapproved

Notetaker: Anneke Toomey

Present: Dot Read, Gary Smith, Wade Kemp, Anneke Toomey, Kristin Coates, Melinda Underwood

Meeting began at approx. 7 PM with a review of the rough schedule which had been compiled since last fall. GS asked if people who have been to these initial training sessions to become program hosts get more clout than someone who has a slot demarcated on the older schedule. Consensus was that yes, those who have actually come to training and are ready to air a program can go ahead and do that, not being unnecessarily limited by previous drafts of our program schedule.

Bob Ross (not present) was mentioned as someone with good contacts at the Compass School. They are roughed in the schedule for Mon, Tue, and Thu from 3 – 5. It was agreed that Bob should check in w/ Compass to be sure these slots were the desired ones.

There were several people who had expressed interest in more recent months but who had either not (a) joined and/or (b) come to training – though nonmembers were not notified or invited to training sessions. These people included Alli Lubin, Sam Maskell, Cathy Bergmann, Lisa Andreoli, Mike from Café Coco, Luise Light, Alice from the library, Pat Fowler, Beth Stickney, and Tim Harty. DR will contact Alli Lubin. AT will hunt up addresses for the others and send them reminders to join/train. It was also suggested that reminders for those who had earlier indicated a time-slot preference contain a clear statement that the time-slots would not be reserved for them if they made no response beyond XX date. (AT? Need more specifics on time they are allowed.)

The committee also has some questions re time-slot preference and flexibility. GS will contact Cuzin Isaac re his flexibility level, and will email Leslie Salmon asking her for a host card to have on file.

GS and DR had an exchange about so called “multifunction slots” which would rotate through different hosts, or would be used to merry-go-round through a selection of similarly themed pieces. GS asked who schedules these and how far out they should be scheduled. DR's radio theatre will be rotating through a cultural programming slot from 7 – 10 on Saturday evenings and she will be the scheduler for this particular slot. She said that it should be scheduled 2 months in advance, and any vacancies could be filled with a repeat of an earlier program.

MU was recognized and she has three different ideas for shows, all of which are produced elsewhere and which we would rebroadcast. One was an national and international news show called Between the Lines, which she used to help produce before moving to this area; one was a program for the blind and visually impaired that's put out by the BBC; the last deals with meditation and Buddhism. She thought there was a fair chance that the BBC program's cost might be underwritten by the State Program for the Blind and Visually Impaired. AT also volunteered to check in with her aunt who works at NLS at the Library of Congress.

AT asked for clarification on members having “A” single show, or being allotted a certain amount of time? Discussion ran that members could have more than one, until time limitations become a factor and then the committee will start restricting.

MU will be assuming the membership sponsored by the Great Falls Peace and Justice group and settling the remaining amount needed for a founding individual membership. She will notify Ole Bye that he will no longer need to represent the group.

GS mentioned that some people in the community are great resources for excellent programming but don't have the time to commit to training and being in the studio. He volunteered to engineer for the following individuals: Robert McBride, Richard Ewald, Stephanie Montgomery, Dan Harlow.

WK feels it's important to block out time to cover local sports – especially key games. He feels confident in raising funds for equipment to use in remote broadcasting – including 2 headsets and a hardwired telephone line. GS suggests WK research and propose what will his needs be for scheduling before soliciting funds.

WK would be happy to lead a seminar/training for those interested in sportscasting. DR would be happy to lead a seminar/training for those interested in radio news production.

PSAs and Community Calendars

GS asked for guidance on PSAs – Balance? Boundaries? Local/national?

WK and DR contributed that they are usually local in nature – and that they should NOT be read unless they are cleared. WK volunteers to be the PSA point-person: to go over any PSA submissions and refer any which seem potentially problematic to the committee. MU suggested connecting local chapters of any national organizations with any PSA from the higher level, to make an attempt as a matter of station policy. KC volunteered to help produce PSAs. WK said often the national orgs PSAs contain a “tag” or a “donut” which is space at the end or in the middle where this type of locally specific information can be included. DR & WK agreed that this is advanced and should be engineered in advance by the person who wants it aired. MU said that with time we’ll have a collection of “Evergreen PSAs.”

The committee agreed to put every type of announcement in a general PSA box to be read in rotation by program hosts, so each event would get equal coverage. GS will make a PSA form though others in the committee thought perhaps an index card system would work ok. He is concerned about balance and equity in announcing events.

Separate from this would be community calendar, which can be separated by niche and cover a more wide-ranging area. (eg musical events going down to NoHo or up to Lebanon/White River). AT volunteers to compile and solicit calendar submissions for musical events. Other possible categories might be literary or culinary. WK suggests having a board where DJs can choose from an a la carte selection of promos for other shows, and niche calendar events.

Finally, GS agreed to post the rough schedule on the web but unlinked so that the committee can reference it later.

The meeting was adjourned at approx. 8:45 PM.

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