

**Minneapolis Telecommunications Network
Board of Directors Meeting - MINUTES
Thursday, July 21, 2016 - 6:30pm**

Attendance: Jon Thompson, Valerie Lockhart, Lamarr Scott, D.A. Bullock, Mike Reed, CJ Harrison

I. Opening Business - Meeting called to order at 6:36pm (Thompson)

- A. Approval of July 2016 Agenda - MOTION to approve D.A., second Mike. Motion passed.
- B. Public Commentary - 10 Minutes
 - a. Nineteen members of the public were in attendance. Four volunteered to speak. The Board approved Thompson's suggestion to expand the commentary to be 32 minutes, allowing 8 minutes apiece.
 - b. Lockhart spoke about how she has the best interest of the organization in mind and accused MTN of wasting money.
 - c. Peterson presented and read a two page document outlining issues with staff calling a member "crazy" and an email conversation with the Board chair where a message he sent was called "petty and vindictive".
 - d. Lewis spoke on behalf of producers... "MTN not a friendly place to conduct business" "needs to reflect the people of this community."
 - e. Scott spoke for 10 minutes about his history on the Board. Peterson was called out of order for speaking out of turn. Scott complained about the job search process and Well's supposed lack of experience.
 - f. Crowder spoke of his concerns over the atmosphere at MTN, bringing a recent newspaper article success story about Ely Public Access. He also talked about Gov Dayton's Castile statement: "To the extent that anyone is treated differently because of their race is a violation of state law". He said that some staff had said that his programming was not suitable. Tene responded and said that the staff had said that they wanted more of his programming. Asked for legal statement from the city clarifying what their role is. Thompson called Crowder out of order for going over time.
 - g. Thompson gave a brief statement acknowledging comments. Wells addressed the crowd for approx. 20 minutes. Spoke to her experience in a variety of fields raising funds and building relationships. She introduced her 3 directives she brought to staff today: meet contractual obligations, improve operations, improve programming. She spoke about seeing voices in our community having not had the access and how she wants to change that. She responded to a question from the public about "changing the dynamic in this room" saying she will meet with members collectively and individually to serve them.
 - h. D.A. responded to comments about hiring a black woman
 - i. Thompson agreed to let one last comment from Porter: "If you're going to be a leader, you need someone like Ralph, Val, and Lamarr."

- j. A representative from the Pan-African Arts & Culture Fair Pan-African spoke that he was here because Peterson invited him. He appreciated MTN and the open discussions around the community. MTN needs to welcome everybody.
- C. Executive Director Discussion - CLOSED to the public
Reed moved to approve Tene Well's full-time contract as Executive Director. Second: Bullock. Motion passed 3-2. Scott left due to emergency.
- D. Approval of Minutes from April 2016 Board meeting - MOTION by Reed, 2nd by Bullock. Motion passed.

II. Reports

- A. Treasurer's Report (Reed, Wells)
 - a. Reed met with Account Manager and new accountant from CLA. CLA will be creating a monthly dashboard to allow us to look at our past 30 days dashboard along with cash flow projections. This may be introduced by September 2016. Will also be working on a pro forma.
 - b. The 5/31/2016 Finance Report was reviewed. There were a number of areas where actual exceeded budgeted. They were budgeted too low to begin with. The payouts are responsible for some of these. Our burn rate was previously \$40k/month and now we have a little more flexibility.
 - c. Wells authorized overtime to be in compliance with 2016 overtime laws. Contractors have been brought in to help with staffing. We will be bringing in a volunteer receptionist to also free up staff time.
 - d. Staff did a projection of when the dead times are in the studios/suites and we will be looking at updating our hours.
 - e. Wells will be speaking with auditors on 7/22/2016 to ensure any issues are addressed.
- B. City of Minneapolis (Harrison) - 8 applications have been submitted for 3 currently open Boards positions. One is a joint appointment. Names will be submitted on 7/25/2016. Will go before ways and means on 8/1/2016 and then before city council on 8/5/2016.
- C. Executive Director's Report (Wells)
 - a. It was discovered that the new A/C unit in the server room had not been properly filled with freon. It has been fixed now.
 - b. The annual 990 document has been presented for the Board to review and approve. Motion to approve: Reed. Second: Bullock. Thompson agreed to sign the report immediately after the meeting.
 - c. Bridgette Bornstein, Communications Deputy Director from the City, agreed to take part in Strategic Planning process.
 - d. Staff will be able to view our contract with the city at next staff meeting. Spoke of plan to develop a matrix to help to meet and exceed all goals with the city.
 - e. Announced plans for upcoming meetings with potential partners.
 - f. Wells has been meeting regularly with staff. They now have new, more creative, titles and will have new cards

- g. Will be looking into small food & beverage sponsorships with local grocery store
- h. Wells will be attending the Alliance for Community Media conference August 18-20 in Boston with a staff member.
- i. Will have Open House reception in September.
- j. During August 4 fringe fest, Strike Theater, who doesn't have a door of their own yet, will be using the MTN Studios door as their access point for theatergoers. We will plan to have more effective signage, cleaned up interior, and potential promotions for those walking through our space for the first time.

III. New / Old Business

A. Lockhart + Board Secretary discussion

Bullock moved to reinstate former Interim Executive Director, Lockhart, on the Board.

Second: Reed. Tie vote. Motion was lost. Bullock made a motion to nominate Reyes as Secretary. Second: Reed. Reyes accepted. Motion passed.

B. 990 review - Covered in Executive Director's report above.

C. Organizational Strategic Plan Update (Scott, Thompson)

Thompson spoke about a plan to move forward Strategic Plan process. Wells suggested having several sessions to solicit input from members. A longer planning session with staff, Board, and member delegates will be planned on 8/27. Thompson to confirm Scott as Strategic Planning Committee Chair.

D. Update - MTN Diversity Committee (Bullock)

E. Next MTN Board Meeting (All)

A motion was made to have the next meeting September 15, at 6:30pm, Motion Bullock, Second: Reed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40pm