

**Minneapolis Telecommunications Network
Board of Directors Meeting - MINUTES
Thursday, September 29, 2016 - 7:00pm**

Attendance: Jon Thompson, Mike Reed, Lamarr Scott, Mulki Hussein, Oral Sledge
D.A. Bullock, CJ Harrison (ex officio)
Also present: Tene Wells, David Cross, Marc Kotsonas

I. Opening Business - Meeting called to order at 7:00pm (Thompson)

- A. Approval of September 2016 Agenda - MOTION to approve by Reed, 2nd by Sledge. Motion passed.
- B. Intro by the Chair. Two new Board Members were introduced: Oral Sledge and Mulki Hussein. They spoke briefly about their backgrounds and interests in public access.
- C. Statement by Reed. Attached page 18. Treasurer Reed made a statement about a comment he had made at the July Board Meeting. Scott expressed his disapproval that Reed was insensitive and hadn't properly apologized. He asked him to step down voluntarily. No motion was made. Scott was called to order for speaking out of turn.
- D. Financial Discussion. See attached letter (pages 3-7). Marc Kotsonas, the MTN auditor from Mahoney, Ulbrich, Christiansen & Russ, P.A. spoke. A common finding in smaller organizations are problems with separation of duties in financial duties. He recommended a few small changes to our current policies for optimum oversight. Board Chair and Treasurer only are authorized to transfer money within bank accounts. Treasurer receives copies of bank statements via mail. Treasurer to meet with Accounting firm and E.D. monthly to reconcile. E.D. to receive all mail and sign all contracts. Cash transactions will be minimized in the future. Internal financials should be updated to reflect cap ex recommendations which were made in the 2014 audit will be made to internal financial statements. Present value of leasehold payments should be capitalized and depreciated. This amount is not significant and Kotsonas recommended not changing to update. Reed made a motion to approve the five suggestions from Kotsonas, 2nd by Bullock. Motion passed.
- E. Public Commentary - 10 Minutes
 - a. Producer Ralph Crowder spoke about his July statement. He clarified that his own initial statement referenced by Reed was based on a statement he had heard from a staff member.
 - b. A former MTN Board member in the crowd spoke about the positive improvements he has seen in the studios in the past few months.
 - c. Crowder expressed his ongoing concerns about MTN being a hostile environment. He wished to see a letter about MTN's policies about recording their meetings.
- F. Approval of Minutes from July 2016 Board meeting - MOTION to approve by Bullock, 2nd by Reed. Scott abstained. Motion passed.

II. Reports

- A. Treasurer's Report (Reed)
 - a. The August financials were presented. Membership is up in the past few months, but earned income from production is down for the year. Savings were found which will reduce our insurance costs in 2016. Some anomalies exist with payroll appearing low and contractor expenses appearing high. This is due to having a non-payroll Interim Director on contract for a number of months. Some budget savings in 2016 were used to purchase \$12,000 of equipment upgrades/fixes. There was an unexpected expense of an additional \$700 to purchase a meter for the new air conditioner.
 - b. Thompson requested that, in the future, all financial statements as well as other prepared reports be shared as a PDF to be included in the meeting minutes.
- B. City of Minneapolis (Harrison)
 - a. Harrison requested everyone to participate in the Neighborhood Community Relations Program Board Diversity Poll.
 - b. Bullock's Board seat will be open in January 2017.
- C. Executive Director's Report (Wells)
 - a. Wells introduced David Cross, a new volunteer from Eastside Neighborhood Services who will be working at the front desk. This frees up time for Doug, Ollie and Fanuel to be more involved in other work. We may be getting another volunteer and are looking at interns as well.
 - b. Budget meeting on October 28
 - c. Give to the Max is on November 17. MTN will be making a big push to producers and others to donate.
 - d. We have a new retainer with legal counsel - Charlie Levine
 - e. We'd like to have an informative event for the Board and for producers in November
 - f. Wells spoke to the amount of recent activity in the studios and an upcoming screening party for the outcome of the Best Buy grant. She has been having lots of positive meetings with producers.

III. New / Old Business

- A. Organizational Strategic Plan Update (Wells, Thompson)

Wells walked through the new Board's level discussion of the Strategic Plan (attached pages 8-17). There was a discussion among the Board about the Mission and Values Statement. Small modifications were made. Motion to adopt the statements by Bullock, 2nd by Reed. Motion passed.
- B. Next MTN Board Meeting (All)

A temporary next meeting date of November 13, at 6:30pm was set with a regular Board meeting at a to-be-determined date in December.

Meeting adjourned at 9:07pm