

**Minneapolis Telecommunications Network  
Board of Directors Meeting - MINUTES  
Tuesday, January 17, 2017 - 7:00pm**

**Attending:** Jon Thompson (Chair), Michael Reed (Treasurer), Anna Columba Reyes (Secretary), Oral Sledge, Mulki Hussein, Lamarr Scott, CJ Harrison (City of Mpls., Ex-Officio)

**Absent:** Jon Samuelson

**MTN Present:** Tene Wells, Eboun Singhathip, Doug Cain, Fanuel Tsehaye, Jackie Hemingson

**I. Opening Business** - Meeting called to order at 7:15pm (Thompson)

- A. Approval of January 2017 Agenda - Scott wished to bring up Reed's role on the Board. The Chair recommended we add this as a new agenda item under New/Old Business. Motion to approve made by Reed. Motion seconded by Sledge. Motion passed.
- B. Intro by the Chair - Thompson thanked D.A. Bullock, who served as Vice Chair and whose term expired at the end of 2016, for the time and effort he contributed to the position.
- C. The September 29, 2016 Board minutes were approved. It was noted that there was no need to approve the minutes from the December meeting, as the required quorum was not present to officiate the December meeting and no decisions were voted on at that time.

**II. Reports**

- A. Treasurer's Report (Wells)
  - a. Wells presented the 2017 Budget Narrative once again, referring to the extensive notations included in the narrative explaining budgetary concerns. It was noted that all of this information had been presented to Board Members on several previous occasions; including the Financial Meeting in November, as well as, was having been thoroughly discussed and walked through at the December 13<sup>th</sup> meeting. It was pointed out by the Chair that, in addition to the December 13<sup>th</sup> minutes, there is an audio recording of that meeting available to any Board Member that wishes to access it. The Year-End Report would be available in March.
  - b. The City of Minneapolis approved \$472,496 for operations. There is \$150,000 projected in grant income using the 501c3.
  - c. \$15,000 is projected for Campaigns. Three different campaigns are being initiated. For example, during The Give to the Max Campaign, 100% of MTN employees contributed. However, the same was not true for the MTN Board Members. It is really important to show that all of our Board Members support MTN, in order to effectively package ourselves to get sponsorships. It is looked upon negatively if your own Board does not back you.
  - d. Wells reported that she would be having individual meetings with each of the

Board Members. This will be to initiate further fund raising plans that will enable her to use the personal contacts and resources that each Board Member can provide to benefit MTN's Fund Development Strategies.

- e. It was noted that many of the Board Members often do not respond when they are contacted regarding various issues. One example is that Board Members will need to give sufficient notice regarding their meeting attendance. We were unable to conduct any business at December 13<sup>th</sup> meeting because there were not enough members present to form a quorum.
- f. There was a request for approval of the 2017 Budget. Reed made a motion to approve. Motion seconded by Reyes. Motion passed.

#### B. City of Minneapolis (Harrison)

- a. Harrison advised that the contract with The City of Minneapolis needed to be signed and that this would be concluded after the meeting. He stated that D.A. Bullock's Vice Chair position is open and thought this open position was listed on the City's website. There has been no response yet. Wells noted that a Board Profile has been created to better assess and more effectively utilize the individual skills/talents and resources of our current members to further realize the strategic goals and mission. The Profile will be electronically sent to current board members to fill out. Bio information is required from all Board Members as needed to submit with grant applications.
- b. There was a request for information regarding grievance procedures. It was suggested that this could be put on the website. The board will start a Google document with recommendations to be discussed at the next meeting.
- c. There had been a public request for specific email data from MTN. The Data Practice Act requires that this information is made available. However, per the Contract Agreement with the City and the State Open Meeting Laws, only government entities are required to do this; contractors do not have to comply. The data request was accommodated and submitted within the appropriate time period. Wells recommended that the Board adopt an Operating Policy that states all records are to be maintained for a specific period of time. It was stated that all Board Members should conduct MTN business using [mtnstudios.org](http://mtnstudios.org) email exclusively. Several members indicated that they did not have enough information to make a decision on this matter. It was also recommended that the Board define a policy that would outline specifically what public demands for records will not be accommodated by MTN. The Executive Director and Chair will submit policy recommendations specific to these issues pending approval at the next meeting.

#### C. Executive Director's Report (Wells)

- a. Membership Packages are being revised. Several Access Packages are being formulated. There will be a greater variety of access products/packages offered. There are two Access Packages. The **Individual Access Pass** is \$1/week or \$52

annually. This package allows individuals to work independently after they have satisfied appropriate equipment certification and includes access to equipment and studios. The **Nonprofit Access Pass** is \$5/week or \$260 annually and includes equipment and studio time. Partnerships are available that allow the use of our 501c3 nonprofit fiscal status for the purposes of funding. Some will include editing/graphics. The \$300 package is working well. Access packages will be shared on MTN's website.

- b. MTN will create an event to honor special producers.
- c. The Branding Committee meeting will be held at 10:00 on Wednesday to begin the rebranding process.

### **III. New / Old Business**

#### **A. Board Elections**

- a. Nominations were requested for Vice Chair. Scott nominated Sledge. Voting was conducted via secret paper ballot with all Board Members participating. Sledge was elected as Vice Chair.
- b. Nominations were requested for Treasurer. Scott nominated Sledge. Voting was conducted via secret paper ballot with all Board Members participating. Sledge was elected as Treasurer.
- c. Nominations were requested for Chair. Thompson nominated himself. Scott nominated Sledge. Voting was conducted via secret paper ballot with all Board Members participating. Thompson was elected as Chair.

B. Reed's role on the Board - Scott expressed his concern over some of Reed's recent comments. A "round robin" discussion was had with each member giving input regarding Reed's behavior. During this discussion, Reed was called out of order for telling Scott to shut up. Scott made a motion to suggest to the City Council that Michael Reed be removed from the Board. The motion was seconded by Reyes. The motion passed. Chair to follow up with the City.

C. 2017 Board Meeting Schedule (Thompson). The list of dates for all of the 2017 Board Meetings was again distributed. The Board was in informal agreement that Tuesday evenings tend to work well.

D. Next MTN Board Meeting will be held on March 21st.

Meeting adjourned at 8:58 pm.

The City Contract was signed following the adjournment