

WGDR Community Advisory Board Meeting
July 24, 2008

Present: Jude Sargent, Wilmer Brandt, Joey Klein, Amy Hornblas, and Greg Hooker
(Station Manager)

Absent were Mac Lore and Joann Brooking

Agenda: Membership
Programming Changes
Programming Decisions
Inter-Committee and Station Communication
Public Notice
Who Are We? (CAB)

Next Meeting: September 11th at 6:30 (CAB usually meets the second Thursday of every other month at 6:30 PM in the Library Conference Room at Goddard College)

1. Membership: Frequent callers to shows on WGDR could be asked about their interest in joining CAB. A PSA could be made to air on the station inviting new CAB members. Posted on website. Would like to find members from regions not yet represented on CAB, such as East Calais, Barre, Montpelier. New members could join immediately and then be *confirmed* at the Annual Meeting.

**** Action Step: CAB members will make a PSA at their next meeting (9/11/08), using the production studio at the station.**

2. Programming Changes: Renee Carpentar circulated an email recently about the chance to air Pacifica's coverage of the Congressional Hearings on Impeachment. This will be happening. Democracy Now! is offering 2 hour long shows during the Democratic and Republican Conventions. Opinions of CAB members were that it wouldn't be worth interrupting 11:00 AM programming for this extra coverage.
3. Programming Decisions: Management would like support in making programming decisions. Such as recent issue: The Children's Hour is currently vacant until around November (Saturdays from 8 AM – 10 AM). Should management seek to keep this a children's hour? CAB supports this, especially since there is so little children's programming elsewhere (underserved population).

Also, Friday nights are free from 8 PM – 10 PM. Could do a live performance periodically, such as once a month, featuring local bands. Lots of different performance styles could be represented. Creative management of the slot could lead to rotating programmers. The live music takes extra effort to produce.

**** Action Step: CAB should create an Annual Statement to help guide management's programming decisions.**

4. Inter-Committee and Station Communication: There are 3 different committees meeting right now. It would be nice for us all to share notes. Greg Hooker said he could facilitate this.

****Action Step: Snail-Mail addresses for CAB members without email are:**

Wilmer Brandt: 784 Ennis Hill Road, Marshfield

Joann Brooking: P.O. Box 411, Plainfield

(Greg- Let me know if you need help with this. –Amy)

5. Public Notice: CPB Grant dictates that our meetings need to be open to the public and posted at least on the WGDR website and announced once a quarter on the air; meeting changes must be made at least 7days in advance. CAB would like to expand this notice by putting posters in the Coops and such. Each meeting will begin with a public comment session if there are guests.
6. Who Are We? Since VPR's change in programming their stations have become consistent and dependable. Some concern amongst CAB members that this is tough competition for WGDR. Listener surveys showed an interest in talk radio. We may lose listeners to VPR because GDR is not as dependable. Lots of music on WGDR, which some people don't like. Some do. Is the idea to compete with VPR and others?

Interest in helping citizens become informed and critical thinkers.

WGDR has collective shows, with rotating hosts, and CAB members like these shows especially due to fresh perspectives.

CAB expressed interest in new programmers since they also bring fresh attitudes.

Much interest in more Folk, since Sunday AM is no longer filling this genre.

Programming is an artform, and CAB respects the programmer's individual interests and support them. When Sunday AM opened up, management called CAB members to find out what we thought. How influential are the CAB members in these decisions? Historically, listeners did not have much power over such decisions. Listener input is helpful, but switching to it entirely would mean a fundamental philosophical change.