

WGDR POLICY ADVISORY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING FOR APRIL 15, 2009

Policy Advisory Council

Minutes 4/15/09 meeting, 6:00 p.m.

Present: Tonio Epstein, Bill Carlotti, Padma, Rick Davis, Greg Hooker, Renee Carpenter, Beth Champagne

Absent: Thomas Weiss, Ed Hutchinson

Meeting opened with pizza and a discussion of by-laws, and a brief history of WGDR and its PAC. Amanda Gustavson, the station's first general manager, famously told programmers, "Write by-laws!" Tonio reported that it took them a year to write them. The old ones, Renée said, were jettisoned two years ago "by people who didn't understand why the general manager needed a PAC. A period of chaos in 2002, when Goddard College seemed to be out of financial resources, led to a concern about its broadcast license being the most valuable asset it might consider selling to raise funds. After this, Padma noted, WGDR people wanted to obtain a first right of refusal from the college in case it ever might again seek to sell the station.

"Institutional memory," noted Tonio, "is critical to survival." He recalls a time when WGDR had people creating "magical" things. "We have to create an archive of our own progressive empowerment" here, Padma said. The history of WGDR should be in the training manual, said Rick, saying he believes only some small core group understands much about WGDR's history.

Ex-general manager Stu, Padma noted, changed WGDR from a village to a Vermont station. He acted, recalled Tonio, as a bulwark between WGDR and Goddard College, protecting the station.

Greg asked whether or not he (or David) should remain at PAC meetings for just 20-30 minutes, then leave. His priorities in this, his third year at WGDR, include getting a programmers' discipline policy written. He said the policy should make clear that no programmer may refuse to help with a pledge drive during his/her show, and that off-air help from programmers is also required.

Greg and Renée concurred on a proposal that all programmers should receive a copy of the current by-laws in their mailboxes two weeks before the next (May 6) PAC meeting, which is to say on or before April 23. Greg also accepted Renée's request that he make copies of the training manual for all PAC members.

Greg left the meeting after about the first 30 minutes.

Renée expressed the opinion that the PAC exists to provide advice and support to the general manager. Padma opined that the PAC needs a reliable process "so that the work of the previous PAC cannot be undone." Renée said the station needs policies that stimulate better volunteer participation, especially in order to raise \$50,000 for the new tower in Wolcott. Tonio proposed putting volunteer obligations in to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that trainees must sign in order to become volunteer programmers. Bill said he had a copy of the "original" training manual that was purged.

Bill and Beth proposed that two books should be acquired by the station and available for use: One was the Vermont Almanac. The other was

RE: Service on the PAC, Tonio said his main agenda is to represent programmers, telling them, "Come to us first," and to have the PAC remain a bulwark against Goddard. His attitude, said Rick, is "anything to help." He felt having a meeting agenda, facilitator and timekeeper were crucial, and said Thomas Weiss did these jobs well and also took excellent minutes. Renée volunteered to bring in a binder in which to keep the PAC minutes, CAB minutes, and old documents.

Renée said the station and PAC need to have a voice with which to speak to Goddard, and the station needs an

advocate with Goddard. “We’ve never had that!” said Tonio. Renée asked that Greg hear a request from the PAC to set a date for the next quarterly [programs?] and suggested having the annual meeting fall between other regular meetings. Padma dissented; Tonio was on the fence.