

MMR Annual Meeting Minutes – Nov 13, 2024

Present: Ken Skog, Chair, Bob Park, Vice-chair, Barbara Park, Secretary/Treasurer, Carl Wacker, Friends of WIDE-LP Radio, Marsha Zelmanski, interested visitor.

Absent: Tom Kozlovsky, at large board member

The meeting was held at the home of Ken Skog and called to order at 2:12PM. We welcomed Marsha, who lives in the neighborhood, to her very first meeting.

The minutes of Nov 1, 2023 with their attachments were approved.

A letter still needs to be written to Greg Kinsley in appreciation of his transmitter repair. Barbara will need to do.

Bob and Barbara's terms will expire at the end of the year. Ken moved and Barb seconded that they each continue on the Board for another 2 year term (their last.) The motion was approved.

We need to formally thank departing board member Tom Kozlovsky for his years on the Board. He has served the station since Health Writers first decided to apply for a license. His last term will be completed at the end of the year. He has been a stalwart supporter of the station since its inception and all of his dedication is greatly appreciated.

REPORTS

Equipment

In May, the Emergency Broadcast System was updated with new firmware for the Sage ENDEC we are using as required by the FCC.

A low-capacity back-up power supply was purchased to allow continued broadcasting during brief power interruptions.

The repaired NICOM transmitter has continued to function without problems during the past 2 years.

Daman Smith told Bob that he has a couple of old computers that we could have as back-up to our current broadcast computer but wanted to check them out before giving them to us. Marsha thought she might also be able to identify another appropriate computer.

Outreach

Andrew Thomas, who volunteers at WORT, contacted us by email about volunteer opportunities at WIDE-LP but has not responded to Bob's reply. He does some interviewing for WORT, so Carl said he would try to contact him regarding our "Know Your Neighbor" series.

Bob agreed to rebroadcast the 3 completed interviews from "Know Your Neighbor." Barb suggested that they could go into the noon Saturday slot since other neighborhood specific things have previously occupied that slot. Carl has recordings of several of his children's stories that he can share with Bob for broadcast.

Last year we had discussed doing a station 'open house' at Ken's house with visits to the garage to show the radio set-up to neighbors, but this never happened. We decided that we will do it this year in conjunction with Make Music Madison. Carl volunteered to make some signs to label the equipment. Marsha and Barb would be willing to make treats. Bob could conduct the garage tours. We could advertise this along with MMM.

Program and Social Media

Few changes in this area. Bob tried using 'Post.news' in addition to the previously used social media sites but they closed down so he is back using only 'X' and Facebook. He posts information about coming talk shows daily.

Treasurer's Report

In addition to our regular expenses, we had to pay \$482.00 for the firmware for the Emergency Broadcast System equipment and spent another \$52.75 for the back-up power supply. These expenses put a real strain on our already tight budget. Nancy Schraufnagel is planning to generously donate \$500. Barbara also

spoke with the Life Stories Writing Group that meets weekly at Meadowridge Library. They are planning their annual public reading in January and are willing to pass the hat to raise funds for the station. Their stories will be broadcast weekly after they are recorded during this reading as they have been in the past

Bob and Ken agreed to attend the November meeting of the Midvale Heights Community Association to request another donation. (They have generously donated \$500 to the radio station annually for the past several years.) There is also a check-off for the radio station on their annual membership form. Carl, who is on their board, will contact the appropriate people to get this item on the agenda.

Carl has recently written articles for the Midvale Messenger and plans to do so again in January to request both donations and volunteers for the radio station.

Other Items

Retirement of the Program Director and antenna technician.

Bob Park has been filling both of these roles and has been the volunteer Program Director since the beginning of the station. He is willing to work with the antenna until the summer of 2026, but not after that. Fortunately since a flexible cable extension was added just below the antenna in 2021 there have not been any further loss of connection problems. Repairing the cable-antenna connection requires climbing the pine tree where the broadcast antenna is currently located. We discussed other possible locations. Marsha's father-in-law is a ham radio operator and is knowledgeable regarding towers. The antenna ideally needs to be above the treetops.

Bob would like to do a maximum of 2 more years as Program director. He would be willing to continue as the Music Coordinator. We discussed seeing if we could put a promo spot on WORT, letting their listeners know that there would be a volunteer opportunity to have some 'hands on' volunteer radio work at our low power station. Bob will ask Chali Pittman if he could record such a spot.

At the end of the meeting we invited Marsha to formally join the board as her participation was greatly appreciated and she has graciously agreed and was voted in. Her 2 year term as an at large board member will formally begin on January 1, 2025.

Further details are provided in the attached reports.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:25.

Respectfully submitted

Barbara Park

Secretary/Treasurer

Attachments:

Equipment Report

Outreach Report

Program and social media changes

Treasurer's Report

Action Items

1. Carl should see that Ken and Bob are added to the agenda for the November 26 Midvale Heights Community Association meeting so they can give a report on the station and a request a contribution.
2. Barbara will add Marsha Zelmanski to her list of Board members for future contact purposes.
3. Barbara will send thank you notes to Greg Kinsley, Nancy Schraufnagel and Tom Kozlovski.
4. Barbara will "Pass the Hat" for contributions to the radio station at the Meadowood writer's reading at the Meadowood Community Room in January.

5. Carl plans to write another article for the January-February issue of the Midvale Messenger seeking people interested in becoming the new Program Director or doing "Know Your Neighbor" interviews.
6. Marsha will ask her father-in-law about the ins and outs of towers.
7. Bob will ask Chali Pittman if WORT could broadcast a spot seeking someone interested in taking on the job of our Program Director or learning about more hands-on involvement with a radio station.
8. Back up computer: Marsha offered to donate one. Bob picked it up and is testing it for possible use as our next broadcast computer. Otherwise Bob should approach Damon Smith again for the one he offered.
9. Carl will try to contact Andrew Thomas to see if he is still interested in volunteer opportunities at our station such as doing some interviews for "Know Your Neighbor."
10. Bob will rebroadcast the three completed "Know Your Neighbor" interviews, perhaps at noon on Saturdays. Carl said that he has several children's stories ready for broadcast that he can share with Bob.
11. The Open House will be held in conjunction with Make Music Madison on June 21. Carl volunteered to make labels for the equipment. Marsha and Barbara will make treats. Bob will show visitors the station equipment in the garage. It should be advertised along with MMM.