

## MINUTES OF THE WLRN

### COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD (CAB) MEETING

September 14, 2006

**CALL TO ORDER:** Frederick (Buck) Thornburg, CAB Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

**CAB Members, WLRN staff and guests in attendance:** Maria Ines Castro, Thelma Gibson, Robert Goddard, Alex Herrera, Albert Jones, Ron Levitt, Darrell Payne, Frederick “Buck” Thornburg, Blair Walker, John LaBonia, Bernadette Siy, Adrienne Kennedy, Mia Landrin, and Ted Eldredge.

The Chair noted that Alan Greer and James Swain were both out of town and that there were also several other members with excused absences.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** A motion was made and seconded to approve minutes from the previous meeting (05-11-06). CAB members present approved the minutes. Mr. Thornburg complimented Bernadette Siy for her good job on the minutes as well as the exemplary work done on the Annual Station Report.

**ELECTIONS:** Buck Thornburg spoke about the upcoming CAB elections for the Chair and Vice-Chair saying that he would like to see more people serve in the officer positions. He expressed the view that it is always good to have ‘new blood’ and fresh ideas. Alex Herrera and Patricia Maldonado have already expressed interest in serving as Secretary.

**MEMBERSHIP:** Alex Herrera named the CAB members whose terms are expiring. The Chair mentioned that he would like these members to consider staying on for another term. There was discussion regarding the expansion of the CAB Board. John LaBonia said he will do some research into the MDCPS Board rule to see if this is possible and will report back.

Buck Thornburg said that a letter will be sent to Thamara Labrousse referencing her non-attendance and that she will be removed from the CAB for unexcused absences in contravention of the School Board Rule governing attendance. In sum, she has failed to satisfy her fiduciary duties by failing to attend any CAB meetings since her appointment to the CAB well over a year ago. He also said that he is working on addressing School Board representation on the CAB and will try to meet with School Board Chair Mr. Barrera on the subject.

The Chair noted that the Membership Committee has a number of well-qualified applicants and candidates for openings on the CAB. Nevertheless, he renewed his request and urged everyone to submit to the Membership Co-Chairs the names of well-qualified, new people interested in serving on the CAB. He reminded everyone of the general criteria for appointment to the CAB and the objective of maintaining great diversity in the CAB’s composition. Bernadette Siy mentioned that she still has the resumes of applicants who were not selected to serve from the last round of openings. Buck Thornburg asked

that those resumes be sent to Membership Co-Chair Alex Herrera.

**STATION REPORT:**

John LaBonia said that the 2005-06 Annual Programming Report for the radio and television stations is ready for submission to the Superintendent. The Chair noted for the record the great job that WLRN staff, especially Bernie, and the Reports Committee did for this year's report. John said that the document will be posted on the wlrn.org website. Buck Thornburg requested that the report be mailed out to members who were not present at the meeting.

An alternate meeting date in November will need to be determined for the next regularly scheduled CAB meeting date due to a conflict on the 9<sup>th</sup>, which falls on the second Thursday of the month and would otherwise be our usual meeting date. Adrienne Kennedy gave more details about a premiere reception for that date later in the meeting. Bernie Siy will send out several alternative dates and poll the membership ASAP.

**CAB OUTREACH:** Buck Thornburg spoke about the CAB MOPP (More Outreach Presentations and Participation) and again asked the CAB members to line up at least one presentation each for the outreach committee. Times and dates of such outreach presentations should be coordinated with John LaBonia's office and the Issues and Outreach Committee Co-Chair Darrell Payne.

**ISSUES AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE:** Darrell Payne shared information regarding a potential outreach mailing/email transmission list that he is compiling.

Mr. Thornburg thanked the Issues and Outreach Committee for the terrific job they are doing this year and the record number of presentations that have been made to date.

**SOCIAL AND SPECIAL EVENTS:** Buck Thornburg mentioned that Maria Ines Castro has offered to host a CAB social gathering for the CAB. She will get together with John LaBonia and the Social Committee to set a date for the event.

The Chair extended the deep gratitude of the CAB to Ines for her leadership and contributions to WLRN and the CAB and for her thoughtfulness in hosting a cocktail party for the CAB members. Consistent with one of this year's major goals, the social occasion will provide a wonderful opportunity for CAB members to become better acquainted with one another and appreciate the wonderful diversity and uniquely different experiences and multi-talented make up of our board.

**NEW BUSINESS:** John LaBonia introduced Mia Landrin WLRN's new Communications Manager. He also said that M-DCPS has a new Communications Chief, Felipe Noguera.

Mr. LaBonia showed off the new CAB photo wall and said that this was a small token of appreciation for the time the members who serve on the Board. He presented the members with their CAB lapel pins and asked them to wear the pins with pride.

Adrienne Kennedy gave a quick update regarding WLRN's local productions and invited the members to a premiere reception in November celebrating completion of an hour-

long documentary on the Florida Keys barrier reef produced by WLRN.

Darrel Payne asked if WLRN would be carrying any debates this election season. John LaBonia said that the FPBS stations including Channel 17 and 91.3 FM carried both the Florida Democratic and Republican gubernatorial candidate debates. The stations plan to carry the Senate and Gubernatorial debates in October as well.

Ron Levitt mentioned that WLRN Channel 17 has been programming exceptional documentaries and has offered to assist with promoting some of the program offers via email to his various distribution lists. He will work with Mia Landrin on this.

John LaBonia also mentioned that the documentary *Legacy of Mariel*, produced by WLRN in partnership with The Miami Herald, received an honorable mention at the recent Louis Wolfson Media Archive Awards.

Mr. Thornburg thanked everyone for their attendance at and contributions to the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.