

**Vermont PBS
Community Council Meeting
June 27th, 2014
Vermont PBS Studios
Colchester, VT**

Members present: Steve Alexander (vice chair), Ryan Doyle, Bill Holiday Toby Knox, Offie Wortham, Olga Peters, Trish Sears

Members unable to attend: Alisha Sawyer (chair), Jerry Aldredge Jane Birnn, Leon Walls

Staff Present: Charlie Smith, Chuck Pizer, Chuck Bongiorno, Joe Merone, Rob Cunningham, Andrea Rosencrantz

Vermont PBS Board: Brian Harwood, Pam Mackenzie, Pat Sabalis

MINUTES

CHAIR'S REMARKS/COUNCIL BUSINESS

Steve Alexander called the meeting to order at 12:30. He welcomed the guests, members of the Vermont PBS Board of Directors. Introductions were made.

A motion was made by Bill Holiday, seconded by Ryan Doyle to approve the January 2014 meeting minutes. None opposed, motion carried.

A motion was made by Toby Knox, seconded by Trish Sears to approve the April 2014 meeting minutes. None opposed, motion carried.

Steve noted that Trish Sears is at the end of her second term of service. On behalf of the Council, he thanked her for her service and presented a certificate of appreciation.

The next meeting of the Council will be held on November 7th, 2014 at the Vermont PBS studio.

Chuck Pizer asked the Council for their ideas on holding meetings around the state. Trish stated that if meetings were held in other areas, community members could be invited to the meetings. Ryan added that places without Council representation would be a good place to start. Toby stated that an afternoon meeting could be tied into an event in the same area in the evening. The Council will discuss more ideas and schedule at the November meeting.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL IN THE COMMUNITY

Jerry Aldredge sent in his report to Chuck. Community Cinema continues to have a loyal following. In addition, the partnership with Head start has been working well averaging 85 kids each month.

Steve Alexander stated that Vermont PBS is building a strong relationship with the Bixby Library. Kids events have averaged 35 kids and the library is interested in other screenings.

Toby Knox was involved with a storytime at the Flying Pig Bookstore for the Writers contest. In addition, he is serving on the CEO search committee.

Chuck reported that Jane Birnn attempted a screening of The Address at the South Hero Public Library. There was a small turnout as summer is a hard time for screenings. She will look for other opportunities for screenings.

Chuck noted that Vermont PBS has a strong relationship with Johnson State College thanks to Offie. Screenings and discussions have taken place at the college.

Bill Holiday has been involved with various screenings in the high school and middle school. Brooklyn Castle was shown to the entire middle school and became a catalyst for students to open up and share their experiences.

VT PBS' INITIATIVE & COUNCIL INPUT, ROLE AND FEEDBACK

Charlie Smith stated that the Council as a group is a powerful tool for the station. Rebranding to Vermont PBS has gone fairly smoothly with only a handful of negative comments. Vermont PBS Plus was launched in May. Ann Curran has been helping out with working with cable companies to obtain carriage of the Plus channel. July 14th will be the 'official' kick off with The Vermont Movie. Vermont PBS is the only PBS station with two HD channels. A second season of Makin' Friends with Ryan Miller will be produced in the fall thanks to a grant from PBS Digital. The Search committee has been formed and is working on the job description and networks to disperse the job posting.

STAFF UPDATES

Joe Merone stated local production tends to ramp up during the summer months. A documentary is in the works on 50 years of UVM Hockey. The new satellite truck has been used quite for outside uplinks to cable/news outlets. Senator Sanders was in the studio 8 times in one week doing various interviews.

Chuck Bongiorno reviewed some development events. An event was hosted at Simon Pearce by David Taplin and his sister Jennifer Jerome. This was a Masterpiece Trust event. In addition, Family Days are coming up with events at Granby Zoo, Lake Monsters game, Montshire Museum and Smugglers Notch. In August, the second craft beer event will take place in the studio. The third Antiques Appraisal event will be held in October at the Champlain Valley Expo. Finally, in January, the Downton event will take place.

Chuck Pizer went over some engagement activities. The writers contest wrapped up with 140 entries. This year, Vermont PBS had a national winner. Chuck is looking to start a middle school contest around creating a public service announcement. Content for summer screening include: Story of the Jews, Yiddish Theatre, 1964, The Address, Freedom Summer, The Roosevelts. Planning is also underway for the Halloween party at the station.

OTHER BUSINESS

Steve Alexander encouraged council members to think of their contacts for new recruits to the Council. Chuck added that Vermont PBS is looking for active and engaged members for the Council that care about Vermont PBS.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Nora Jacobsen noted that she didn't know about all the community screenings that were being held. Chuck stated that Vermont PBS has been building relationships with community partners around the state to hold various screenings and discussions.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:40.