

Minutes: Public Information Committee Meeting
Grandin Gardens ● Tues. Aug. 9, 2011 ● 6:30 pm

Present: Michael Bentley, Chair; Jim Bier, Brent Riley, George Hunter

Prior meeting was July 12, 2011

1. Call to order and moment of silence
2. Michael volunteered to take minutes
3. Discussion of VT Foundation Board meeting of Jul. 21 at Hotel Roanoke

Brent and Jim shared their notes on how the Board members reacted to the Chair ruling for no oral statement and conversations that took place after the meeting. As a result no one could learn of the comments of others. One woman on the Board asked questions about the WVTF decision-making process, not directly answered by the station manager. Brent noted Larry Hincker's move to smooth things over after the Chair called for the meeting to end. Mr. Hincker told him to "submit a proposal" related to considering DN! Jim said that we need to talk to LH about public input, that WVTF was using DN! as a smokescreen for avoiding issue of public input. The issue is WVTF's lack of responsiveness to the community. Also pointed out: GG misrepresentation that the FC had discussed DN! In fact there has been no serious evaluation of DN!. We would like to find out what is budgeted by WVTF for program evaluation, and how Arbitron statistics are used for program evaluation. It was agreed that we continue to focus on the CAB issue instead of the Democracy Now! run. We find it still unresolved as to if VTF as a private organization should have a CAB. These issues can be included in our follow-up letter to the VTF Board. Jim agreed to write a draft letter to the VTF Board.

Michael agreed to do a draft to the Inspector General of the CPB and to the NPR Ombudsman updating them on the VTF Board results.

Brent agreed to draft a letter to LH with a proposal to evaluate DN!
4. In other matters, it was reported that Jim, Michael, Frank, and George were at the July 15th Artist Open House at WVTF and handed out 28 copies of the 3-page flyer urging campaign support and attendance at the VTF Board meeting. Michael said he would attend the next Friends Council meeting, 12 noon, August 30, in Lynchburg. Brent agreed to draft a letter to the FC for that meeting. Michael volunteered to create a new leaflet/handout for the Aug. 19 WVTF Artist's Open House, and the demo time was set for 4:45 pm. We decided that volunteering to answer the phones during the coming fund drives would be awkward for Committee members known to GG and his staff, but that Gary could ask for volunteers from the Plowshare list.
5. We tabled the idea to petition the FCC to deny WVTF's license renewal. We considered Jim's suggestion to take the DN! issue to other venues. Brent said that he had had contact with Sherry Spradlin at Blue Ridge PBS, who is in charge of programming. He volunteered to contact her about setting up a meeting to discuss airing DN!.
6. Next event

Aug 20 Artists' Open House, Kingsbury Lane, 5:00-7:00 pm.

Time of demo: we will revert to the FIRST HOUR this month, meeting at 4:45 pm.

7. Next Committee Meeting was set for the Plowshare Peace Center, Grandin Gardins for 7:00 pm Thur., Sept. 15.

Adjournment: 7:40 pm.

Submitted by Michael Bentley, 8-11-11