

The Iowa Public Radio, Inc. Board of Directors met telephonically/virtually on May 21, 2020 with the meeting originating from Iowa Public Radio, 2111 Grand Avenue, Des Moines, IA. Present for the meeting were Chairman Marsha Ternus, Vice Chairman Bob Downer and Directors Vickee Adams, Jeneane Beck, Katie Byers, Lijun Chadima, Nora Everett, Steve Firman, Mary Kramer, Warren Madden, Zach Mannheimer, Cassie Mathes and Julie Monson. Directors Jacy Johnson and Doug West were absent. Present from Iowa Public Radio were Myrna Johnson, Kelly Edmister, Al Schares, Andrea Hansen, Gretchen Kasperbauer, John Pemble, Katherine Perkins, Matt Sieren and Steve Schoon.

Chair Ternus called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. Roll call was taken with each director stating their location.

Bob Downer – from University Heights
Jeneane Beck – from Bethesda, MD
Katie Byers – from Des Moines
Marsha Ternus – from Grimes
Steve Firman – from Cedar Falls
Zach Mannheimer – from Iowa City

Cassie Mathes – from Cedar Falls
Julie Monson – from Iowa City
Lijun Chadima – from Cedar Rapids
Nora Everett – from Des Moines
Warren Madden – from Ames

Based on the responses provided, the requirements of Section 21.8(1)(c) were satisfied and it was appropriate to proceed with approval of the agenda.

Director Adams joined the meeting at 1:04 p.m.

Agenda

Chair Ternus requested a motion to approve the agenda. Director Firman moved and Director Monson seconded to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was approved.

Minutes

Chair Ternus requested a motion to approve the minutes. Director Madden moved and Vice Chair Downer seconded to approve the May 4, 2020 minutes, as presented. The motion was approved.

Chairman's Report

Chair Ternus reported that a response from the Board of Regents regarding the elimination of support from the universities would be discussed further.

Old Business

Chair Ternus indicated that there was no old business.

Regents Support Response

Chair Ternus summarized the timeline of communications with the Board of Regents to date. Chair Ternus reviewed the most recent communication outlining the expression of appreciation for IPR, the intent of the formation of IPR, the current economic environment resulting in no operating support from the universities and a proposal to assist in the transfer or sale of the licenses. Chair Ternus requested comments and questions.

Director Kramer joined the meeting at 1:16 p.m.

The Board discussed the transfer or sale of the licenses and associated assets, the implications of such on the organizational structure and governance of IPR, the logistics of occupying university-owned space and the impact on university-based employees. The Board discussed the financial implications of a transfer, the ability of IPR to successfully manage and maintain the infrastructure going forward and the desire to maintain quality public radio in the state.

The Board discussed engaging in a dialogue with the Board of Regents regarding the potential transfer of licenses. The goal would be to address some of the initial questions raised in order to start the process of fully evaluating the proposal.

Chair Ternus summarized the discussions and next steps as acknowledging there is no university support, expressing an appreciation for the commitment to preserving public radio in the state, and a willingness to explore the transfer proposal. The Board will discuss further at their June 25 meeting.

Adjourn

As there was no additional business, Chair Ternus adjourned the meeting at 2:33 p.m.