

WTVP Community Broadcasting Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
January 15, 2013

Present – Adam Sloan, Carole Hill, Linda Zears, Henry Litchfield, Andra Connor, Steve Tarter, Linda Miller, Chet Tomczyk

Linda Miller reviewed a Jan. 5 fundraising event held at the Peoria Civic Center coinciding with the start of the third season of "Downton Abbey" on PBS. "It was a really great event drawing 180 people to the Civic Center, 95 percent of whom showed up in period costume (1920s attire)," she said. "Downton Abbey" proved to be a major ratings success for PBS, drawing 7.9 million viewers nationally in January, said Miller.

Also reviewed was the Jan. 8 meeting of WTVP's board of trustees. Policies at the meeting included keeping all of the station's meetings open to the public. Chet Tomczyk noted that the board reaffirmed its policy of keeping the station's list of donors private. "We don't share that list with anybody," he said. The station looks to continue its search for diversity on staff and the board, said Tomczyk.

The station manager also noted that a unique golf outing was planned in February at the Quail Meadows Country Club in Washington, a virtual competition held indoors at the club.

Adam Sloan said he planned to provide leads on possible underwriters to the station's development director. Along with identifying potential underwriting help, members of the advisory board were urged to distribute program surveys for the station as well as supply any leads they might have on possible members for the community advisory board.

Henry Litchfield asked for an information package provided to prospective members so that he might acquaint himself with opportunities for increasing business participation on the station.

Tomczyk reminded the group that this year's Channel 47 Auction, the station's 40th, will be held April 25-27.

Miller noted that this was the busiest time of the year at the station, filing reports to fulfill federal mandates. She added that the station has been the recipient of an increased number of books from Barnes & Noble. "The last four years we've received books from Barnes & Noble as part of the bookseller's program with nonprofit groups. This year we received 4,292 books valued at \$18,000. We're in the process of sending them out to schools and organizations," said Miller.

A number of programs -- local and national -- focusing on violence in the aftermath of the tragic shootings in Newtown, Conn., will be shown on the station in upcoming weeks, she said. "That incident is having an effect on programming. There's a feeling that there has to be a discussion about it," said Miller.

Upcoming local programs will feature the Peoria Symphony Orchestra as well as the Heartland Festival Orchestra, she said. A locally-produced program, "The Boxcar People," will look at Mexican immigrants who came to work for the railroads in Galesburg in the early to mid-20th century and lived in boxcar housing provided by the railroad, said Miller.

Andrea and Litchfield discussed ideas for future programs as well as some of their favorite--and least favorite -- programming on PBS.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steve Tarter