

Notes Program committee meeting 7/9/13

Members present: Noah, Roger, Per, Jenka, Kathleen, Erin

Linda, Paul will be member next meeting

Plus about 20 community members

Thom Hartmann discussion

Kathleen: Used the minute-by-minute form for 16 hours of Thom Hartmann program, got a good sense of what the show does. This is the non-profit version – what would be filled with commercials is instead filled with little break things, like 6 minute newscast. It starts with Thom reading a six minute pre-recorded newscast – it repeats, there's a break at about 15 minutes. The structure affects how the show flows – he wraps up calls before the breaks, he has 3 to 10 calls per hour – traditional talk radio format: he is the ringmaster. He likes to have a conservative guest, and pretty much always wins in those debates. Very male dominated

Daniel: Do you think this is a KBOO show?

Kathleen: I don't know what the vision is. The odd thing for me, in relation to KBOO, is that it all goes back to one man. Different from DN! In that Amy doesn't rant, she has co-hosts, the talk radio format is more rolling back to commentary from the host.

Rabia: There is an opportunity here, KBOO has this opportunity. The format is similar to Abe and Joe's show, which is exemplary, and carries our morning talk radio strip. If we carry this program, our membership will grow. A percentage of the community which mourned the loss of Thom Hartmann will turn to KBOO and support KBOO. This is about asking the entire community – a way to engage the community and not to make a proposal – another radio station has contacted the Thom Hartmann people and said they are interested. These are the facts: they said that Thom Hartmann favors KBOO, and if KBOO wants to have exclusive rights to air Thom Hartmann

Bob: Actually Lynn's email has a concrete proposal - saying clearly that this would air between noon and three on weekdays

Linda: Is Rabia asking us to air Thom Hartmann without any knowledge about what it will replace?

Rabia: Well, we could be creative – people value music, and value Spanish programming – when the email came out, we didn't know that we had these options. Thom Hartmann could also be sandwiched between our afternoon programs, or replace one of the airings of Democracy Now.

Jenka: Process question: Why did this not come to the program committee before it went out.

Mark: How are programming changes usually made in this committee?

Erin: When I became program director, the public affairs shows had been evaluated regularly, but music shows had not. I updated the evaluation forms and programming contract

Mark: I listened to Thom Hartmann, and called in, was put on hold for twenty minutes – who knows how long people have to wait. I've talked to die hard Thom Hartmann fans who weren't willing to replace KBOO music with Thom.

Joe U.: What Mark said struck me as really important. This was a push poll, I have worked in surveys – this was a pre-selected audience by the nature of the type of poll that was used. I am concerned about KBOO's goals here – we could be the Thom Hartmann station. Is that what we want to be? And what happens in a year or two years, when he asks for money?

Sue B.: I am a fan of Thom Hartmann, I don't usually get to listen to afternoon music since I work. It seems worth considering one hour a day at noon. I want to bow to the democratic process – Thom is committed to small d democracy, I also think he's the most respectful talk show host on the radio. He has conservative guests, and tries to call them out in a respectful way. It might be worth it, as an experiment. I doubt that he would start charging – that's not the way he rolls.

Dave : I agree, I am a fan of Thom Hartmann, I am in favor of running a small experiment – let's try one hour at noon. What about replacing afternoon Democracy Now. How well does that program do? I like the idea of being flexible, Rabia said: guaranteed membership would increase with Thom Hartmann. I would not make such a strong statement – but I think it's worth an experiment. I felt like the survey was so poorly constructed that it was insulting. I would really like it if communication was better.

Ed K: I think going out to a wider audience is a good idea – I think that the survey was clumsy. Is the only option to run it live for three hours? What about replacing the re-run of Democracy Now, which was only added to try to get more money out of that audience. I think the programming is good, not offensive.

Barbara L.: I think it was appalling that the Program Director did not know that there was a poll going on. I was on the Programming Committee for 7 years, and think the way that we made programming changes was what made us one of the best community radio stations in the country. We were conservative, and changes were slow and respectful. How many Thom Hartmann fans posted an alert on facebook, without knowing the culture and history of KBOO. This would amount to 20% of KBOO's total programming! That this could be 'floated' without anyone knowing about it except maybe 2 or 3 people. Thinking about the 'liberals and progressives who were left out in the cold'. The definition of Radical: Thorough, far-reaching, deep searching, favoring radical changes – looking at the sources of disease and the root of issues. Even one hour of Hartmann would involve difficult decision making

Audience: The survey was unscientific, there was no way to prevent people from multiple votes. The results of that survey should be thrown out. With one hour, the music shows would go from 2 hours to 1.5. If you want to do it, try replacing

Crystal: I prefer Mike Malloy. I thought about it when KPOJ went off the air, but now Thom Hartmann is everywhere. But if people only listen to the radio, then maybe having it on alternating with Mike Malloy. The last navigator report made it sound like the poll was valid. So I think we should have another poll.

Linda: The way the survey was portrayed implied that white liberals are the 'under-served' of Portland, which felt like cultural incompetence or just ignorance of the situation in Portland, which is among the whitest cities in the nation. We need to look at our programming charter. The push poll had its effect, we are all here, concerned about Thom Hartmann. To replace Amy Goodman, which is varied in sound and guests, with the one voice of Thom Hartmann is not a good idea. We need to get

a message out to the public that KBOO does not believe that the white middle class is the under-served of Portland.

Ani: I think engaging the public is a great idea, I'm all for it. But in doing so, you need to be careful how you word thing. The way that it went out was: KBOO serves the under-served. After KPOJ went off the air, Portland lost its only liberal talk radio station in Portland. As a talk radio host for 19 years, I found this disingenuous. Our greatest strength, and sometimes our biggest weakness, is our diversity. When we look at one white male replacing 27 volunteers of a variety of cultures, languages and ethnicities, that is not in keeping with KBOO's mission. On Tuesday afternoon, not only is it Spanish language, but Tonalli is an award winning show – they talk about health issues, teen pregnancy, things that are taboo in that community. I would maybe think about a proposal of noon to 1, and cut the 4 – 5 Democracy Now.

Kristin: I have a radical idea – we should have Thom Hartmann underwrite Joe's program, and Thom can have a special little podcast on the KBOO website.

April: I have been a member for 2 years – it changed my opinion of KBOO. I was horrified by the survey. I support KBOO because it is inclusive of the community. You should have mailed it out to members. – I find it disturbing that Thom Hartmann is being proposed as a way to make money – I don't think I would support KBOO with Thom Hartmann on because it would no longer support my values.

Barry: I feel that 15 hours a week is too much, but I think that KBOO could get an award for having Thom Hartmann on Mondays and Lunch with Bernie on Fridays. And Tavis Smiley on Wednesdays.

Carla: If there is any Thom Hartmann on KBOO, it should be done carefully, and not at the expense of other voices. There should be a larger public process about moving programs around.

Audience member: I used to listen to Thom Hartmann. He is no Amy Goodman. He is corporate – I don't care how nice he is, he pulls his punches because he's worried about his income.

Audience: I like Thom Hartmann, but there is some stuff that he just won't talk about. He censors himself. I like Mike Malloy – he doesn't hold back. Mike Malloy is not that commercial. I am critical of the poll, too. I ended up taking two polls – one said 'yes/no', the other had two 'yes' options.

Bob: I respect everyone that has spoken – I would like to put in a word for local music programming. I'm not against Thom Hartmann, I think replacing a show that's a repeat, maybe

Rita: Thom has been gone from Portland for a while now – why has no one picked him up, if he's such a money maker? He is like Rush Limbaugh for the left, my husband would make me turn it off after 20 minutes because it was so annoying.

Andy: The survey, I think, was meaningless. Going to a poll before going to the programming committee was a mistake. We already have syndicated programs: Democracy Now, Flashpoints, Alternative Radio, Hard Knock – these are all great programs, and more fitting with KBOO's values.

Paul: I think it's good that a lot of things that happened at KBOO recently have stirred up interest in the community. Two things: one is the politics of decision making at KBOO – people have brought up

the issue of how this poll was done, and this is not the only example. The other is Thom Hartmann's politics – he is connected to the Democratic party. This is kind of an easy way out, we should use the horizontal efforts that takes work by each of us to support KBOO, instead of just turning to Thom Hartmann. When he was in Portland, that was more immediate, now that it's a national show it is very unlikely that local callers could get their voice in. And people would be calling here and jamming our lines.

Carl: I never listened to Thom Hartmann, since he is syndicated, maybe not the best choice.

Barry: I didn't get to do the online survey, I'm not online, but Mike Malloy should be on.

Rabia: When the survey went out, we didn't know that there were options – there is a one hour recorded version of 'best of' Hartmann. We do have other syndicated programs, it's not like we would be introducing the first syndicated program to KBOO. I was heartened to hear that some of you would be open to one hour of live programming, even some of you who are opposed to Thom Hartmann.

Ani: Given our status as a non-profit, would his partisan statements or endorsement of the Democratic party – as a program host, we cannot do calls to endorse a party, or calls to action to get involved with a party or take over a party.

Dave: This is a bit of serendipity – Thom Hartmann called us, right?

Rabia: I don't remember

Erin: Yes, he called us

Audience: What could we do that's local – as a discussion spinoff

Rabia: I've heard a lot of criticism of the survey. What if we get survey experts to help us craft a survey, and get it out to the wider community. I would like to propose that we design a better survey, and you experts help us do that. I would suggest that we do this by September.

Audience: Sending something out to members would be good, inviting non-members to participate in programming decisions is not a good idea

Noah: Our next meeting is August 16<sup>th</sup> at 6, please get involved.

Joe: I am very impressed – I've been to a lot of KBOO meetings, this is a rational discourse, thank you everyone.

<break>

Hadrian: I am completing my Board term, by September I will be gone. I have been on 5 boards, and have trained Boards. I am concerned that KBOO is not following our bylaws. Rabia tells me that the committee has not been doing what the bylaws require. We have not been getting the product of what this committee does at the Board level. You've been having this committee, and having a good time, but we haven't seen the result at a Board level. You look at things at an internal level with the

minute by minute form. Have we been advised by a leader in the Spanish language community as to what the needs of that community is? This would not violate the values of KBOO, the Community Advisory Board could not advise us to do things outside of our mission. We do have some representation of the community in our programming, but how do we know if they are meeting the needs of the community?

Jenka: This is done through program evaluations - programmers have to provide evidence that they are connected with the community they represent

Per: Everyone talks about community, what do we mean by community? I'd like to see that defined.

Hadrian: When was the last time you determined whether you are meeting the specialized educational and cultural needs of the community?

Noah: Every time we meet, when we do evaluations

Joe: I think I hear you say that we are in violation of the bylaws because we are not doing a specific kind of interaction with certain unnamed communities. I would be concerned to address the politicization of defining and appointing leaders of the communities we are talking about. When you ask: are you serving the community and how –

Hadrian: We can do nothing, and sit back and say that we don't want to offend anyone. But how much outreach do you do to those communities to see if what the programmers say is true.

Per: Our programmers go out in the community, some do it better than others. Lucia for example has more connections in the Italian community than anyone I know

Erin: We are at a certain capacity – I think we serve the communities that we do serve very well. When we have a second stream, when we have more capacity, we can work on expanding our reach

Hadrian: I have made a complaint to the attorney general's office that KBOO is in violation of its bylaws.

<general uproar in room>

Joe: Is your purpose to help KBOO?

Hadrian: I have a very specific way to do that, yes.

Ed: Hadrian is feeling that he has not been getting reports from this committee – that's one piece. Also, there's a very specific nuance in the question of who's being consulted. The way it's being done could be circular – that people who are

Rabia: The committee is made of three staff, a board member and two volunteers – that is hardly a community advisory board. I submit my report to the board each month, which generally includes three staff reports and some discussion about minor issues. Hadrian is suggesting a solution that is not about punishment, but is about a possible solution.

Per: Just trying to see how I'd fulfill my responsibilities – first we'd get a list of the communities we're supposed to be serving – we'd probably get about 50 – we've had all kinds of programming in the past. We then have to figure out who the leaders on – how will we decide who represents these communities? I just don't see how we would work this out. It's not just this seven person committee, we have the many programmers who are connected with their communities.

Kathleen: I remember when this came up many years ago in the Alan Baily days, when we made the Program Committee into the Community Advisory Board. I think that there is some merit to the idea that we should reach out to more communities and bring more diversity to this committee. What about Community Advisory Boards at other stations?

Barbara: Can Hadrian please make his complaint to the Attorney General public, so we can all see it?

Paul: There has been some usage of Community Advisory Boards in Pacifica stations for political factions, we should be careful of that. Some people online have suggested that KBOO is out of compliance with FCC rules, which is not true. These are serious matters, and I wonder if there is some political motive here, because the divisions among Community Advisory Boards have torn other stations apart.

Joe: I speak for a minority – people who have been arrested, in jail, and we have a code of honor – 'we do not snitch'. Hadrian, you do not share that code of honor. You sir, are a bully, and have treated people this way for far too long.

Hadrian: Who are the unserved and under-served? That is this committee's job – you should be able to tell me, a Board member, who those communities are.

Rabia: That information doesn't come to me as a Board liaison.

Hadrian: And Erin makes a good point about capacity – we as a Board would take that into consideration. We are aligned with corporate radio in that we are not going out and talking to the leaders of these communities to see if we are serving them.

Barbara: As a volunteer station, we depend on the talent from the community that comes to us – it's totally unrealistic to expect that we will make a list of every underserved community. What is missing, Hadrian? Talk about leaders of the community – who determines who is the leader of the community? To me as well, snitching is a real violation of my own code of honor.

Kristin: I think we do a good job of serving various communities – as a Board candidate, I am willing to personally go out to these communities and talk to them. If there are holes in the programming, we need to initiate the contact somehow to create that content. It's on you (Hadrian) to go out and find it.

Hadrian: We've done a good job in determining that we are serving the needs of the people who we are serving the needs of. I am not a leader of the communities, but I think we should make a list of unserved and underserved communities and determine the leaders of those communities.

Noah: I want to try to wrap this discussion up.

Linda: My concern is that members of the Board don't listen to KBOO programming – and I'm concerned that Hadrian and other Board members haven't listened to our public affairs and music, because if they did, they would hear more clearly the communities that are being represented. You're demanding that the committee provide a list that if you just listened to KBOO's programming you would hear the underrepresented communities that you are talking about.

Rabia: I propose that at the next meeting, we talk about restructuring the Program committee using Hadrian's proposal. We would include representatives of the community to hear what they have to say. That would give us time to determine who these representatives are.

Jenka Report:

- Indigenous program Thursday evening - working with potential new hosts Eric and Deanne Two Rivers
- 7/19 Membership drive Focus on Global South - one day drive 8 am to 10 pm - southern hemisphere: Australia, New Zealand, Antarctica, southern Africa, South America
- 7/17 Bill McKibben live broadcast from Clark college
- 7/18 Live broadcast of Pacifica national town hall: Transforming from a war economy to a full-employment peace economy
- successful Hard knock outreach at Good in the Hood, handed out fliers to people on parade route - first real outreach effort for Hard Knock since we started airing it.
- went to Open Source Bridge conference and talked with open source developers and the students at Open Source Labs at U. of O. about organizing a hackathon at KBOO - maybe in conjunction with block party in September - to work on pushing forward the newstip submission and verification tool for a city wide pool of citizen reporters to contribute to KBOO News

Noah: Next meeting, we can discuss changing from second Tuesday to third Tuesday of the month – may conflict with Finance committee, need to determine that.