

KSPS Community Advisory Board (Regular Meeting)

11 June 2026 16:00 PT via Zoom

CAB members present: James Albrecht (Chair), Bob Morrison (Vice Chair), Marianne Patton (Secretary), Ann Dyer, Chris McGoldrick, Chris Powell

KSPS staff members present: Skyler Reep (President & General Manager), Debbie Brennan (Programming Director), Shawn Claypool (Chief Administrative Officer)

Regrets: Patty Crone

A quorum being present, James called the meeting to order at 16:03 PDT.

Minutes of 14 May 2026 were approved and Shawn will post them.

Reports From KSPS staff

President & General Manager: Skyler referred to his weekly Executive Dispatches for the most current station news. He also provided updates on the station's financial health, noting they are ahead on budget due to increases in revenue and reductions in expenses. The budget for FY 2027 still is unbalanced by \$450,000, but that will be addressed in time for ratification in July. The station is in a strong financial position with \$9 million in net assets and a two-year cushion of cash for operations ("runway"). The Endowment has grown to \$5 million, primarily from bequests. He is interviewing candidates for Development Director, a responsibility that is currently his.

He followed up on James' request for further information about the publication ads in the Southern Oregon (Medford) PBS program guide. It contains about 25% ads, causing the group to discuss the distinction between underwriting and advertising in station materials. KSPS is reluctant to include ads in their broadcast materials due to potential brand confusion. The businesses that underwrite PBS programs cannot make a "call to action." Skyler will send CAB members, a clear explanation (an "elevator speech") regarding the difference between underwriting and advertising for use in community discussions.

He will also consider conducting a survey or focus group of viewers and corporate sponsors to gauge their opinions on the possibility of including advertising in printed materials, and the potential impact on brand and underwriters.

After a discussion about the new daytime lineup and schedule, Skyler agreed to look into and report back on the PBS and/or FCC requirements regarding minimum hours of children's programming and whether they are legal requirements or internal PBS rules.

Chief Administrative Officer: Shawn provided information on some upcoming station events that are not designed to raise funds but to raise awareness and visibility of KSPS attributes. July 11 will be the "America at 250 Jubilee" at the MAC (Museum of Arts and Culture), and the Inland Sessions Live concert at the Brick West Brewing Company on August 1.

Programming Director: Debbie listed and described some upcoming broadcasts, including:

July 3: “A Capitol Fourth” 90-minute program

July 4: “America Made in Virginia” 2-hour special

July 14: “Once Upon a Time in Space” begins a 4-part series

August 2: Finale of “Grantchester,” both season 11 and the program

August 8-16: Pledge Drive will include a new Reba McEntire concert at Madison Square Garden, a “Made with Love” series featuring Spain, and a documentary about Mary Oliver.

August 25: American Masters documentary about Mary Oliver, “Saved by the Beauty of the World”

June’s live pledge night was positively received, especially indicated by an unusual number of pledges that came in during the News Hour.

Round Table Discussion by CAB Members

Chris M inquired about KSPS’ mailing list sales practices. Skyler confirmed they do not sell or rent Email addresses. PBS app users can opt in to receive communications.

Marianne had enthusiastic comments on the evolution of Passport with more clearly presented and user-friendly menu choices. Ann noted the Rick Steves Europe podcasts seem to be on the increase. Debbie explained that RS has been repackaging and renewing older content to fill gaps left by the funding cuts to PBS.

Ann and Marianne also praised programming that features characters with disabilities such as autism. Examples included Carl the Collector and Patience. Bob expressed interest in potentially bringing back the Wishbone series. Skyler explained that high production costs and rights issues currently prevent this. Debbie added that PBS typically plans children’s series years in advance and require 40 episodes, making it difficult to acquire shows like Wishbone.

Especially appreciated programs:

Civics Bowl (everyone!), Patience, Alice’s Adventures on Earth, Women of World War II, Travel with Darley (on Create TV which is APT content not PBS), Wild City: Singapore, Shared Planet, The Count of Monte Cristo, View Finders: The British Virgin Islands, National Memorial Day Concert, DW & BBC News, History with David Rubenstein, White With Fear, Guardians of Yellowstone, Top Hat, What’s the Story, Woody Guthrie at 100

American Masters (WEB Du Bois: Rebel with a Cause, Woodstock: Three Days That Defined a Generation)

American Experience (Seabiscuit)

Frontline (The War Cabinet)

Nova (Can Dogs Talk? Decoding the Universe, When Whales Walked)

Nature (Attenborough’s Wonders of Song, Nature Never Sleeps)

Old Business – Chris P raised his concern that censorship of profanity in films shown during Saturday Night Cinema was unnecessary. Debbie explained that all movies are pre-edited by American Public Television. Licensing restrictions give KSPS no control over the content. The station purchases complete packages of films rather than individually. It was noted that PBS is fairly conservative in its programming from 6 AM until 10 PM.

New Business – None

Next meeting is 10 September 2026 (second Thursday) at 16:00 PT.

The meeting adjourned at 17:29 PT.

Respectfully submitted,

Marianne Patton, Secretary