CC Meeting September 5, 2017

Present: Caitlin, Carla, Ivan, Jim, Julie, Rachel, Steven Oh, Jo Ellen, Manolia

Absent: Steve Katz/FNP

**Announcements:**

Antoinette has left FSTV for a career in social justice and for that reason dropped off the CC. Kaavya submitted her resignation from the CC today.

TMC will receive $75,000 from donors for a Campus Sexual Assault Reporting Project. Jo Ellen will project manage.

Manolia’s last day will be September 30, 2017. Jo Ellen’s last day will be December 31, 2017. See below/attached for more information.

**Meeting Outcome/ Next Steps**

1. Decision to put TMC on ice until June 2018, then have an in-person one-day meeting to determine its future (see discussion below).
2. Jo Ellen to place draft letter to members into a google doc; CC members to help Jo Ellen edit. Goal is to send letter to members by September 15, 2017. Content of letter is decision to put TMC on ice.
3. CC members to identify volunteers for 4 positions to start December 2017-June 2018:

* CC President (plan CC meetings, oversee contractors)—approx 3 hours/month
* Bookkeeper (code income/expenses for FNP) –approx 3 hours/month
* Database Tender (maintain database; liaison with CiviDesk for website/database/member portal issues)—approx 5-8 hours/month
* Communications (facilitate listserv and facebook group; send out very short monthly email via mailchimp)—approx 5-8 hours/month

1. CC plans to hire Jo Ellen as a contractor to plan network meeting in June. Meeting will take place on the network day at the Allied Media Conference in June 2018.

**Discussion:**

Jo Ellen had circulated a plan in which TMC would be put on hold for 12-18 months, then re-started as a nation-local network incorporating local hubs. Grounding this plan was the notion that Jo Ellen and Manolia would start a consulting business to support the creation and strengthening of local hubs, while TMC members volunteered to keep the organization running.

While some CC members appreciated the plan—Carla noted that NPR is going in this direction—Jim was clear that he was not at all sure such a network would be viable or, at any rate, that local hubs would not be willing to work with a progressive outlet like BNF. Jim advocated for a focus on a shared project database. AT the same time, he made clear that he personally has no capacity to volunteer for TMC—that even serving on the CC is a stretch.

Echoing some of Jim’s concerns, Julie also said she had limited or no capacity to volunteer with TMC. What’s more, she pointed out, that in 12 months folks might be more interested in starting a whole new organization, with a different name, a different mission. Is it really worth it to keep TMC going?

Much discussion ensued, including Ivan’s comment that we say we want to build a media movement, but it’s not clear what a “media movement” means.

To know what we want, Caitlin suggested that we may all need time away from TMC. She said, “We don’t even know what this country will look like 18 months from now.”

The consensus was this:

* There is no capacity among TMC members to keep TMC going without staff
* The new direction in which members want to go—what people are calling a “media movement”—may require getting rid of TMC altogether and creating a new organization.
* Members need time without an organization to understand what they need from an organization—time to get rid of nostalgia.
* During this “down” time members can’t be asked for dues.
* Members need a face-to-face meeting to determine what they actually want and need.
* A meeting in June 2018 would be perfectly timed. CC members like Jo Ellen’s suggestion to hold this meeting as a network day as part of Allied Media Conference, which would save the cost of logistics.

**What Will Happen with Manolia and Jo Ellen?**

Manolia and Jo Ellen plan to start their own consulting business focused on supporting the development of racially equitable, collaborative local hubs. They want to remain connected to TMC, probably by doing limited contract/consulting work for TMC as members figure out their new direction.