

Plainfield Co-op Meeting Minutes

May 13, 2014

Present: Gail Falk, Bob Fancher, Art Chickering, Adrienne Allison, Mike Peabody, Joseph Gainza, Scott Harris, Sue Chickering, Sam Clark (Building committee report)

April minutes approved unanimously.

Building report committee: Basically a walk through was performed by several members of the building committee and board members. Sam highlighted the most pressing issues we are facing. The back part of the upstairs Community Center floor is missing some beams that need to be replaced. The floor joists/supports under the building itself need to be repaired as soon as possible through whatever means is feasible. They spent a good deal of time codifying to see where there is lead and determining a map of the areas that need to be addressed. The children's area was a top priority and is likely completed as of the time of this meeting. The handicapped accessibility ramp also needs to be improved. Improving the ramp and creating a more inviting, welcoming attractive entrance using the existing entryway. The entire list presented by Sam needs to be done eventually but the most important things deal with safety and functionality. Most of Sam's estimates are based on paid labor, with the exception of some interior areas that need to be painted to deal with the lead issue. The plan with "Karen's wall" though expensive, would be to rebuild the fire escape and tear out the existing clapboards and replace them with cement clapboards that would last for a long time. But the idea was suggested to bring the fire escape over to the "driveway wall" out one of the existing windows, and the suggestion of using a metal fire escape was also put forth. We could also ask for an easement on Karen's land to wrap around the building if we keep the fire escape where it is. Sam will see if it is feasible to wrap around. Mike, Dawn and Steve met with Bob Fancher about the finances. We have at least \$10,000 to put towards these expenses. The MC is particularly concerned about the lead factor and the floor in particular. It cannot be painted over, they might have to do linoleum. Mike is pretty sure that the MC would put this as their first priority. We all agree that the MC should determine in what order Sam should go ahead with these priorities with the understanding that this \$10,000 amount will be used until we accumulate more funding. Many thanks go to Sam Clark and the entire building committee for their hard work on these pressing issues.

Customer staff concerns: No new development on the document itself. Some issues are still concerning but Joseph will continue to be our liaison for these issues.

Membership committee: Mike will join this committee and Scott will try to reconnect with Amy and Jody. No news at this point. There still seem to be a lot of people who were members before who are not currently members now. Aside from asking patrons in the store, we don't have a system for reaching out to these people but maybe we can put something in the newsletter reminding people the importance of this or send out a small mailing, or emailing. Remind people of the dividends they are not going to be receiving. Remind people "It is time to make your equity payment." Joseph will write up a blurb to remind people to make their payments. And a sign at the counter to remind people is important too.

Deed for the boundary changes is completed. Mike will put this in the archive file.

Equity committee: The system is set up to do everything by the membership renewal date instead of January 1st. This is up for debate and needs to be discussed. See membership committee notes for discussion on this.

End report on “Community Building opportunities” was presented and approved. The report was voted to be in compliance.

Finalizing our new Ends: We adopted the following language.

The Plainfield Co-op will:

- Distribute healthy, affordable foods and other goods.
- Actively seek local producers and growers, and support the local and regional economy.
- Sustain the environment through its operations and the products it offers.
- Increase awareness of cooperative principles and of other cooperative businesses.
- Build connections that are essential for a vibrant community.
- Foster awareness of the quality and source of our food.

Link Report: The line of credit is paid off to the Chittenden Bank! Kathleen has been renovating the kid’s area and making it more user friendly and creating easier access for parents to the kids themselves. The paint job looks great and the lead will be covered. Steve did a great financial report for the MC to help them understand the Co-op’s financial condition which was very well received. Payroll has been in a good range. Cash flow is still a little weak in places, slow, steady improvement is being seen. Drew Sy is a new employee. Both Amy and Elizah will be leaving. The Co-op is also in a position to be able to purchase equipment before it has completely fallen apart. Mike mentioned that a board-staff get-together would be a good idea. Gail asked if anyone wanted to take on organizing this and offered her home. We have tentatively set aside June 7, 8, 14, 15 for a potential pot luck gathering with the MC.

MC Monitoring - B1: Financial Condition was accepted as in compliance with the exception of B1.8 which has been steadily improving and has an adequate plan of action.

C4 Board Monitoring – Meetings – seems like we stay on task for the majority of our meetings.

Other business – Bob is actively working on the website – and Bob is looking for pictures of each of us for the website.

Next meeting: June 10th at 6:30 PM at the Co-op (upstairs)

(Sue needs to distribute the updated B4 to all for notebooks via email.)