

Co-op Board Meeting Minutes
April 21, 2015
6:30 pm at the Community Center

Present: Art, Chickering, Gail Falk, Bob Fancher, Joseph Gainza, Karla Haas
Moskowitz, Scott Harris, Mike Peabody

Consent Agenda: March Minutes, MC Policy on donations, Amendment to B1 policy on donations

Committee Reports (20 minutes):

- **Building**-committee meeting tonight.
- **Treasurer**- In first quarter of 2015 Sales have increased 2.8%; budget reflects within 1% of what happened.
- **Communications** - Media-half of communications met: everyone is involved and participates fully, website going live in may (even though some additional pieces need to be added-calendar, emails), newsletter will be in online and also in print format, expand mailing list, and create a variation of a newsletter that is like a biweekly sales flyer.
- **Equity** (draft letter to members, plan for mailing) - letter explaining dividend has been created; checks need to be printed. Mailing will be in window envelopes,, Board members will come help stuff and staff when Bob notifies us the checks are ready..

Report on NCFCA meeting and

Report on Financial Training for Small Boards (15 minutes) -

NCFCA meeting: Mike shared some of what he gleaned from sessions: (e.g., Shaws and other major grocery chains have the resources and square footage to incorporate organic products and are the greatest competitor to co-ops more than specialty shops like Trader Joe's. Mike shared his concern that NCFCA is becoming mostly concerned with larger co-ops. No small co-ops represented on the Board. All new startups are working with CDS, which does not let a co-op open until it can project \$2 to \$3 million annual business. Theme of meeting was "what is the cooperative difference?", Next meeting is October 24, 2015

Financial Training for Small Boards: Gail, Joseph and Bob shared what they gleaned from this Training (controls around use of co-op credit card)

April 18 Board-MC Meeting/Retreat

Take aways:

Art: Another meeting needed for Strategic Plan, Board member attend staff meeting

Bob: Enjoyed talking with MC, look at two questions we did not get to in break out sessions, very productive day, should do again

Scott: Nice informal, talk with MC

Mike: pass

Joe: Really enjoyed sitting with MC, striking how much in common board and MC had in terms of identifying goals, emphasis on serving/strengthening community, appreciated re-evaluation of position of Link.

Gail: Great to have it facilitated; appreciated facilitator's detachment from policy governance, opened up possibility to re-evaluate use of policy governance

Karla: pass

Discussion regarding retreat-generated recommendations:

Reverse Link--board member attends MC meeting, 9:30 am-noon - last friday of month, prefer that we change off on which board member attends. Gail will create a schedule, Mike will present it to MC at next meeting and Reverse Link meetings will begin in May.

Next Board-MC Meeting/Retreat scheduled preferably on a Friday 10:00 am -1:00 pm. Gail will send out a doodle poll to schedule.

Gail met with Andy Robinson on the phone to discuss strategic planning process:

Planning team is formed that actually works on the Strategic Plan (board, staff, and others who are not on either). External outreach, focus groups are facilitated. Talk with other businesses and co-ops to gather info. If he was the consultant, he would write an assessment-recommendation. Use input and have a retreat; make decisions. Strategic Planning around building/facility would be folded into overall Strategic Planning process. Andy would up to charge \$10,000 to facilitate this entire process; if we can't pay that much, he could do less.

Bob reminded board that the funding for the Staff-Board Meeting/Retreats (quarterly) are not in budget. However, we agreed that the funds could appropriately be drawn from the Capital Fund.

Gail will send out over email what Andy shared with her re: process for Strategic Planning.

Bob spoke of the importance of feedback loops, transparency, and community involvement in creating the Strategic Plan.

MC and Board would plan a half-day meeting to launch the Strategic Plan and next steps inclusive in budgeting (Andy or Gail could facilitate)

Link Report (10 minutes) - Some staff were charging beer and wine. Mike discovered this and informed the staff involved that this is not allowed, thus ending the practice. Discussion ensued on how to support Mike in his job as Link and also build capacity for others on MC to learn the Link position and/or support Mike if he needs support/relief in various Link tasks.

MC Monitoring End 5 -- Awareness of quality and source of our food (30 minutes)--Mike will distribute Gail's feedback to MC that will formulate a response.

New meeting time for Board-third Tuesday of each month.

What do we mean by *healthy food*? End #1 is: "We will distribute healthy, affordable food and other goods." (This was an individual brainstorm and the following month we will pick our top interpretations) (10 min.)

Co-op Development meeting at Goddard -- Takeaways? (10 minutes)--Goddard College has provided small innovation grants and one is supported a group of faculty to research cooperatives and create a community-based certificate granting course (webinar) on creating cooperatives. The faculty group will be seeking support from Food Co-op Board and staff.

Long-term use of second floor -- How to proceed? (15 minutes)--fold into Strategic Plan.

Board Monitoring -- C3 - Agenda Planning (5 min.)-- We are doing well, but do take too much time--sometimes--discussing reports.,

Adjourned at 8:35 pm

