



Board Meeting Minutes

9.15.2011

Attendance: Jayne, John N, Rochelle, Eric, John R, Ron, Erin, Julia Fern (notes)

Absent: Tj, Rob

Agenda

Announcements

Mission Statement / Agenda Review

Commitments Review

Member Comment

BPC Report

Accountability Team Update

Wash PIRG/Plastic bag petition

Committee Reports

Executive Session

Meeting Eval

Commitments

Next Facilitator

Announcements

Rob will not be here

Tj will not be here

Julia will not be here

Eric will be out of town next week

Commitments Review

- *Jayne will talk to Jason about options to publicize committees on the website yes*
- *Jayne will write a no photo/video proposal yes*
- *Jayne will construct a doodle poll yes*
- *Fern will convene the Annual meeting sub committee yes*

BPC Report

Staff Member Jason attended to present the BPC report. Staff re- structuring is on track. They are currently filling department coordination roles. These coordination roles are not all buyers,

which is exciting as more people are getting invested in departments. Dept finance roles are also being filled. Filling two of the three minimum coordination roles.

Budget discussions have begun collective wide, working with sales per labor hour, and the labor budget process was consented too. BPC has also been discussing labor systems and how to revise them. Expansion was discussed at the last collective meetings and feedback was gathered. There are a variety of opinions.

Accountability Team update

No more updates will be given from ACT as implementation has begun.

Wash PIRG / Plastic Bag Petition

See Attached Documents 1 +2

Rob attended who is with environment Washington that is a statewide citizen based advocacy group. Disposable bags are a great problem 16 million are used in Olympia alone.

5% are recycled.

Orcas and other animals mistake them for food.

Nothing we use for 5 min should be in the sound for 500 years.

They do recognize that OFC does not provide plastic bags in store.

Bellingham and Edmonds have banned plastic bags to get Olympia on board they must show the city council that there is support for this.

47 local businesses have signed on.

Jayne asked what other co-ops are using for produce and bulk plastic bags.

They are not targeting these types of bags. They are focusing on the carry out check out bags.

Ron asks if there is a reason for that.

The carryout bags are unnecessary, and there are so many more of the carryout bags and they are looking at tackling this problem first.

Erin asks what the timeline is for Olympia they would like to bring it to the council this fall.

Statewide they are hoping to submit their bill in January.

Proposal:

The Olympia Food Co-op will sign the ‘ Keep Plastic out of Puget Sound’ letter of intent.

Consent

Committee Reports

Finance – did not meet

Eco planning- did not meet

Outreach- has narrowed down to three candidates for the branding project.

Julia asked if any board members would be willing to table at the Harvest Party, Eric committed to doing it. There is an event in Seattle called co-opalooza October 16th. OFC will begin attendance with a table; Eric happens to be in town that day and will stop by.

Cecososola- had a great meeting on the 8th, someone who has been to Cecososola briefed the group. There was a great conversation with those interested, they talked about criteria for applicants, how payment would work, and the application itself, which will be available to staff October 1st.

Local Farms and Products- continued discussing labor practices and standards. They are also looking at food processing.

Personnel – currently working on an alcohol and narcotics policy they are working on crafting something that fits into the legal requirements and enforcement. It should be going to collective meetings fairly soon.

Boycott subcommittee – Jayne is acting as the temporary facilitator. Grace has taken one of the staff positions. They had their first meeting with Teresa from the NWCDC who is a potential facilitator. They would like to continue working on this. They did not want to continue without any board input. The next meeting is scheduled for the second half of October. There is a lot of discussion and varying opinions on who ultimately makes a boycott decision.

Board Elections

Rochelle and Fern will meet to discuss Annual meeting mailing information and specifics of the annual meeting.

Proposal:

The board reaffirms its prior consent to four openings for the Board.

Consent

Proposal:

The board clarifies that there must be at least one more candidate(s) than openings. In the event that the number of applicants does not exceed the number of openings by one or more the number of openings will be reduced accordingly.

Consent

Commitments

- Rochelle and Fern will meet and discuss what will be mailed out for the annual meeting.
- Fern will gather phone numbers from board applicants and send to Jayne

Decision Report

1. Communication Principles

Consent Via email - See Attached Document 3

2. Board Meeting Policy

Consent via email – See Attached Document 4

Attached Documents

1. Wash PIRG / Plastic Bag Petition:



Nothing we use for five minutes should pollute the Sound and the ocean for 500 years.

Impacts of Plastic Bags

- Plastic bags are a serious threat to orcas, salmon, seals, and other wildlife because they can ingest them, choke on them, or be harmed by toxins.ⁱ
- Worldwide, **267 species** are known to suffer from entanglement or ingestion of plastic bags, leading to the death of tens of thousands of whales, birds, seals, and turtles.ⁱⁱ
- In Washington, this problem was highlighted last year when a grey whale was found dead with **20 plastic bags** in its stomach.ⁱⁱⁱ



The Extent of the Problem

- In Olympia, almost **half** of the plastic waste generated is plastic bags.^{iv}
- That means Olympia is using **over 16 million** plastic bags every year.^v
- Plastic litter in the water breaks down into smaller and smaller pieces, but scientists believe it may never fully biodegrade.^{vi}

The Solution

We can easily solve this problem, just by **banning** these unnecessary plastic bags.

- At least 20 countries have banned plastic bags already, and many more are debating bans right now.
- Over 25 U.S. cities and counties have banned plastic bags^{vii}
- In Washington, Bellingham and Edmonds have both taking the initiative to ban plastic bags in order to protect marine wildlife.

As the capital city, Olympia should be a leader in the effort to protect Puget Sound wildlife and ban plastic bags!

You Can Help

Leading the way on many of these campaigns are local co-ops. As you know, many co-op customers already recognize this problem and have started bringing their own reusable bags. This is a quick and easy way to fix this huge problem. As a prominent Olympia business, it is important to add your voice to a growing list of Olympia businesses that support banning plastic bags. With your support, we can protect Puget Sound wildlife.

ⁱ EPA. "Marine Debris Impact". July 25th, 2011. http://water.epa.gov/type/oceb/marinedebris/md_impacts.cfm

ⁱⁱ Worldwatch Institute. "New bans on plastic bags may help protect marine life." 2008. <http://www.worldwatch.org/node/5565>

ⁱⁱⁱ Associated Press. "Garbage found in stomach of dead whale on West Seattle beach." April 19th, 2010. http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/localnews/2011649749_whale20.html

^{iv} Green Solutions, LLC. "Thurston county waste composition study 2008-2009." December 2009.

^vBased on estimate of 360 bags used per person. Californians Against Waste. "The Problem of Plastic Bags." http://www.cawrecycles.org/issues/plastic_campaign/plastic_bags/problem.

^{vi} New York Times. Chris Conway. "Taking aim at all those plastic bags." April 1, 2007. <http://www.nytimes.com/2007/04/01/weekinreview/01basics.html>

^{vii} Environment California. "Leading the Way Toward a Clean Ocean." July, 2011

2. Wash PIRG / Plastic Bag Petition:



Keep Plastic out of Puget Sound

Background

Plastic pollution is a serious threat to whales, sea turtles, and other wildlife. Olympia alone uses over 16 million disposable plastic bags each year, and too many of them end up as litter in the Sound. In 2010, a gray whale was found beached with 20 plastic bags in its stomach, highlighting this terrible problem. We can reduce plastic pollution and save wildlife by banning throwaway plastic bags.

Endorsement Statement

To Whom It May Concern,

My business or organization supports a ban on disposable grocery bags in Washington.

Name of Business:

Name of Contact Person:

Phone:

Email:

Address:

In addition to endorsing this campaign, I would also like to:

- put a sign in my store window to show my support for banning bags
- be notified on further ways to take action on banning bags
- testify at a hearing to ban the bag

3. Communication Principles (Decision report)

OFC Communications Principles

Audience:

Primary audience: Our most important audience is our membership and local community. This audience has multifaceted opinions, backgrounds, and interests in the Co-op. They may get their local news from the Olympian, the Fort Lewis Ranger WIP, South Sound Green Pages, OlyBlog, Olympia Power and Light, The Stranger, NPR, other online news sources, social media, and/or word of mouth. This audience must be the main focus of our communications.

Secondary audiences: other regional or out-of-state people interested in OFC-related issues, other food co-ops or co-op-related online news sources (blogs, news sites, etc.).

Note: Although secondary audiences are not our prime focus, we must monitor and work with them in order to maintain a positive online reputation.

Goals:

- To tell the Co-op's story, especially within the local press
- To excite interest in the initiatives, projects, and values endorsed by the Co-op
- To supply our audience with factual information
- To update our membership and encourage member feedback
- To maintain an accurate and positive reputation (online and off)

Guidelines:

Our communications should strive to:

- Accurately convey the Co-op's vision and decisions, as articulated by our Board of Directors. (When questions are specific to staff or operations, answers should accurately portray the staff collective while maintaining appropriate confidentiality)
- Have a defined purpose
- Show our respect for our membership and their diverse views while continuing to reflect the organization as a whole
- Embody our values of furthering dialogue by refraining from unfounded assertions or assumptions about people with whom we disagree
- Maintain a focus on our overall mission.

4. Board Meeting Policy (Decisions report)

Consent Via Email

The Olympia Food Co-op Board welcomes the attendance of active Co-op members at Board meetings* and at the annual meeting. The Board reserves the right to refuse admission to any person whose behavior is disruptive.

Photography, video or audio recording is only allowed with prior consent by the Board.

*Board meetings may include an Executive Session, which is closed to the public in order to discuss matters requiring confidentiality.