



Board Meeting Agenda 7.18.2013

Attendance: Ron Lavigne, Niki Bilodeau, Teresa Young, Dani Madrone, Cezanne Murphy, Isabella Rogol, John Regan, Jayne Rossman (*Staff Rep/ Facilitator*), Fern Moore (*Board Observer/notes*)

Absent: Erin Genia, Josh Simpson

Agenda

Announcements
Mission Statement
Commitments Review
Member comment
TULIP Partnership
Staff Report
Letter to the Editor
Annual Meeting and Election Plans
OFC Notes Policy
Yearly Financial Review
Board Retreat
Garden Center Business Plan
Committee Reports
Commitments Review
Meeting Eval

Announcements

- Jayne and Fern are on call
- Erin will not be able to attend tonight's meeting and will see everyone at the retreat

Commitments Review

- Jayne will bring a process for how Co-op members can access meeting minutes.
Complete
- Jayne and Dani will connect about the Board retreat; send them info for agenda
Complete
- Jayne will find a facilitator and childcare for the retreat and organize the potluck
Complete
- Harry will bring to the Finance Committee / Cat: suggest a % of labor to be admin
Pending
- Jayne will send out a doodle poll for the Annual Meeting

Complete

- Jayne will email out the Board Application to see if we need to change anything.

Complete

- Niki will bring proposed dates for the next Board Lemonade Stand

Complete

Member Comment

JT Scott attended to address the Board, as a long term member since the 80s, an active volunteer and a former board member. His opinion is: It has been three years since the board action to boycott Israeli goods; he has seen a lot of hurt in the community and within himself. His feelings about the co-op have changed and he doesn't feel comfortable in the store anymore. It was the way things unfolded. When he was part of the board, he was dependant on staff feedback and opinion. By his reading of the bylaws the boycott policy is to be decided by staff consensus. He is less concerned about the board making the decision, but how it affected the community and how the community feels about the Co-op. He built the table that the Board and Staff gather around and feels strongly about the organization, but does not feel like he can volunteer or participate in it. There has been no attempt at reconciliation in three years, as a board now you have the power to end the lawsuit and come to reconciliation with the community with process and out in the open. The co-op is not part of the heart of the community any more it is just another store. Thank you for your time and I hope you can be helpful in healing this community.

TULIP Partnership

Tamara, Development Officer attended representing TULIP. TULIP has 1300 members now, and loans are growing. TULIP has been bringing in new members to the co-op through all sorts of networking within community resources. She specifically wanted to know what type of information she should share with members to make sure they get the most out of their memberships. TULIP will be having their 10-year anniversary celebration in December, and they want to build a committee to have a great big party. TULIP will be welcoming Yelm Food Co-op shoppers as potential members, similar to OFC members. The next goal is to extend the charter to members of all food co-ops. Tamara adds that because of her participation in multiple committees and groups she sees that there are a lot of resources within our community that are not recognized. There are also barriers to these resources that are not recognized by consumers and providers, as well as all the assumed barriers. Trying to get around those barriers are really important. How can we bring the resources to the forefront?

Jayne suggests that she contact her to attend an Outreach meeting.

Tamara added that there is a South Sound Women's event, March 24th at SPSCC, they are looking for presenters; please let her know if anyone is interested.

Staff Report

None submitted.

Dani was interested in attending staff meetings, to have the opportunity to get to know the staff and see our process.

- Email Jayne if you are interested in attending Staff meetings, it would be great to go in pairs.

Letter to the Editor

A letter to the editor was published in the Olympian and Works in Progress about the Co-op and the lawsuit. A draft of a response written by Jayne generated a lot of conversation on the possibility of some sort of community dialogue/reconciliation process.

Questions brought up from this discussion include:

How hindered are we by the lawsuit that is still active? What can/can't we do?

Can we have a peace & reconciliation committee to work on this?

What does the word "reconciliation" mean?

How do we "maintain free-flowing communication" and "resolve organizational conflicts" in this situation?

Do we need to have a response to this letter to the editor?

There is a wide variety of feeling among Board members on the specifics of this topic. There is a general feeling about wanting to move forward, but being uncertain how to do so, due to the lawsuit. Most Board members agreed that, as Niki said, we are here, and we are engaged and listening and welcome feedback and member involvement. We regret that we cannot communicate at this time and when we are able too we will. It's not for lack of interest.

The issue of further community dialogue/reconciliation will be discussed more at the board retreat. The specifics of a response to the recent letter to the editor will be tabled until after that broader discussion.

Annual Meeting and Elections Planning

Outreach is looking at scheduling the Annual Meeting on Sunday, October 27th; they also picked October 20th as a back-up date. They have submitted the Board application to be printed in the August/September newsletter. Applications for Board members have a deadline of September 1st.

They are looking at few different ways of doing food at the annual meeting that would be cheaper.

Other Annual Meeting ideas

Invite other organizations

Two hour meeting, although there are concerns about attendance at a shorter event

Tables, scale down staff and printing and possibly time

Staff attendance and involvement

- *Jayne will bring to Outreach a discussion of how to increase staff attendance and involvement at the Annual Meeting*

Any other ideas concerning the Annual Meeting email them to Niki, Jayne, or Teresa.

OFC Notes Policy

See attached Document #1

This policy proposal comes from the Bylaws Review committee. Ron has concerns regarding having the ability of the board to not produce documents that aren't in the best interest of the organization, on those rare requests where harm could be done. More conversation needs to be had within staff regarding the policy and the possible bylaws change.

Proposal: The Board approves the OFC Notes Policy

Consent

Yearly Financial Review

This is another area identified as a possible policy proposal from the Bylaws Review Committee. The Board decides that we can do this as needed and it does not need to be a policy.

Board Retreat

Do we need more time for any agenda items?

Boycott and Membership, regarding earlier conversation

If we do work planning is there a particular goal?

Marketing, missing from our discussions

Revenue

Food

Dietary restrictions (vegan, no oats, gluten, no nuts, no soy)

Label all dishes with complete ingredients

Garden Center Business Plan

Jayne presented the changes made to the Garden Center business plan since the Board last saw it. (Which were: increased the projected margin, added taxes and benefits to the staff wage, cost of volunteer discount cards, percent change in increasing staff expense year over year, increased sales projections for west side store, added a business loan at 4.3% for seven years.)

The Garden Center plan passed recent staff collective meetings with two important considerations: 1) passing the proposal did not mean that it was a prioritized expenditure; and 2) that all options for a onsite POS station would be explored.

Finance committee reviewed the business plan. They hope that the numbers are accurate enough. The assumptions are reasonable and it is not a high risk project. It is within the parameters of our mission statement.

Their recommendations include: limit the capital expenditures to the \$36,000; only approve the project expenditures when cash flow has reached the identified benchmarks; finance it internally; phase project costs over time; manage the project efficiently; and appoint a project manager. There is support for capital investments that make the space useful.

Proposal: The Board approves the Garden Center Business Plan including the finance committee and collective recommendations

Consent

Committee Reports

Outreach – Board lemonade stand and recruitment!

10- 12pm Aug 10th - Cezanne and Dani – Westside

Niki and Isa – Eastside

Member Relations- More incidences have been taking place that involve safety. They are working with staff about how to respond and are creating a policy and processes for

members. There is continued work on the Welcome packet. They also started follow up on the Co-op Conversation - acting within a limited budget.

Co-op development – they discussed relationships with other organizations (Co-opatopia, SLICE, and the newly formed Black Moon Collective Café). They discussed flat sales at Westside, and establishing more of a relationship with TESC, including the possibility of presentations about the Co-op in classes and further relationships with students and faculty. There was a Co-op development class held recently that was not as well attended as hoped.

Standing Hiring- They have designated a couple of recommendations for applicant status

Task Force #4- will be presenting more at the upcoming retreat. Be on the lookout for their draft of research and recommendations being sent by Harry.

Bylaws Review – They worked on a system for integrating three-year Board terms, as a proposed bylaws change. Bylaws changes information is in the upcoming newsletter, and will soon be in-stores and online.

Local Foods- Will meet on Tuesday. Dani has only been able to attend one meeting and would like to step down from the committee, as she is not able to commit to serving on a third committee. John, the other acting Board member, feels this is fine, as they don't have any ongoing projects at this time.

Expansion- they are continuing work on Eastside preliminary development as well as Garden Center implementation planning.

Finance – They reviewed the Garden center business plan. Financial benchmarks were submitted for review by the Finance CAT. These benchmarks will be tracked on a weekly basis. Finance CAT is working on the process piece. They discussed different matrixes for allocating funds (health and safety, revenue generating, aesthetics)

Commitments Review

- *Cezanne will send out the financial benchmarks*
- *Cezanne will email Harry about Task Force #4 draft*
- *Jayne will send an email to Josh and Erin about food for potluck and dates for lemonade stand*
- *Jayne will make copies of applications and the mission statement for the lemonade stand*
- *Jayne will bring to Outreach a discussion of how to increase staff attendance and involvement at the Annual Meeting*

Decisions Made Out of Meeting

1. GMO Article

Proposal: The Board authorizes the use of their signature on the GMO Article that will run in the Olympia Food Co-op quarterly newsletter

Consent

See Attached Document 2: GMO Article

2. June Meeting Minutes

**Proposal: The Board authorizes the June Meeting Minutes as record.
Consent**

Attached Documents

1. Olympia Food Co-op Notes Policy

How to Access Notes and Other OFC Documents Consented by Board on 7.18.2013

The Olympia Food Co-op believes strongly in transparency. Our bylaws (in Section IV, part D) direct us to make certain meeting minutes and corporate documents available to active members upon request.

You can read our bylaws at: <http://olympiafood.coop/bylaws.html>

Board Meeting Notes can be found online without a request at: <http://olympiafood.coop/board.html>

Active members may request other documents specified by the Bylaws by emailing ofcboard@olympiafood.coop with the following information:

- Your name
- Email address
- Phone number
- Specific documents that you are requesting

Members will receive a response within one week. The response will include an estimate of how long it will take to retrieve the documents. Documents will be available in either electronic or paper form, depending on the type of filing used at the time of their creation.

The Board reserves the right to charge members for the incurred costs of retrieval in the case of requests that are extraordinarily broad and time-consuming. Members will receive an estimate of charges in advance, and an invoice detailing the costs afterward. *No charges will ever exceed the actual costs for retrieval of documents.*

2.GMO Article

Where does the Co-op stand on GMOs? From the Board of Directors

Human history is replete with cautionary tales about our interactions with natural systems; from decimating salmon runs to introducing Cane Toads to Australia to dealing with nuclear

waste, we often make short-term decisions that have long-term, negative, unintended consequences. In our increasingly ecologically unbalanced world we believe that environmental conservatism is warranted in the introduction of GMO crops. Here's why:

GMO crops can have unintended detrimental effects on other crops and ecological systems.

While some GMO crops may be beneficial and safe, others have been proven to have unintended effects including: cross-pollination with other varieties; the creation of "super weeds" and "super bugs" which have developed resistance to herbicides and pesticides after being repeatedly exposed to them due to the use of herbicide- and pesticide-resistant GMO crops; and the inability to eradicate some GMO crops once they are introduced (best exemplified by the recent discovery of an experimental GMO wheat strain on an Oregon farm many years after the product was pulled from testing.)

We do not yet know whether GMO crops' benefits outweigh their risks. Although some GMO crops likely have beneficial applications, others have been exaggerated. Scientific evidence on the benefits of various GMO crops is contradictory. For instance, although multiple studies carried out by GMO producers have shown that their crops have a higher yield than conventionally bred varieties, newer studies undercut these claims. A recent study in the *International Journal of Agricultural Sustainability* found that crop yields for corn in America (which produces almost entirely GMO corn) and Europe (which produces almost entirely non-GMO corn) were nearly identical for the previous 25 years (1985-2010) – or in other words, we haven't experienced a big bump in yields from going GMO. If the benefits of GMO crops do not outweigh the risks, there is no reason to use them - especially given the issues of corporate control of food that are inherent in their production.

Part of the reason we do not know what the risks and benefits of GMO crops are is that the science is industry-funded—and contradictory. Contrary to GMO producers' assertions, GMO products have not been "proven to be safe." In fact, the very idea that "GMOs" are a homogenous category that can be "proven safe" is unrealistic. GMOs comprise a diverse array of products, some of which probably are safe for people and the environment, others of which are not. For this reason, rigorous scientific testing of new GMO products is required. This testing must include both human health and environmental effects, and must include long-term studies.

Unfortunately, our regulatory system is inadequately equipped to carry out such studies, much less to determine whether individual GMO products are safe and beneficial. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA), which is responsible for "protecting the public health by regulating human and animal drugs, biologics (e.g. vaccines and cellular and gene therapies), medical devices, food and animal feed, cosmetics, and products that emit radiation" is underfunded, subject to political and corporate pressure (under which they have ignored or over-ruled the recommendations of their own scientists), and relies upon studies funded by corporations to determine the safety and efficacy of the very products the corporations wish to sell. (This is just as true, and just as problematic, in studies done by cosmetic companies on their new products as it is for GMO-producing companies.)

Thus, although many large organizations have weighed in to say that "no known risks" (to personal health) exist, debate continues in peer-reviewed journals about the overall risks and benefits of many GMO crops. As *Nature* magazine (a well-respected, peer-reviewed journal) stated in their May 2013 special section on GMO crops: "Researchers, farmers, activists and GM seed companies all stridently promote their views, but the scientific data are often inconclusive or contradictory."

Food sovereignty requires that people control their own seeds, farms, and food systems.

Perhaps most importantly, we believe the people have the right to control their own food systems; GMOs do the opposite. These proprietary crops contribute to the increasing concentration of seed production and economic power in a few multinational corporations, while simultaneously putting undue burden on organic farmers to seek out GMO-free seeds and guard against cross-pollination.

We particularly take issue with pro-GMO voices who insist that GMOs are needed to “feed the developing world”, and that those who wish to limit the introduction of GMOs are “elitist”. Many citizens in other countries are having their own debate about the pros and cons of GMO crops. In fact, in 2002 the governments of Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe refused to accept food aid from the U.S. because it included GMO corn. Most importantly, the problem we face with food shortages in our world is due more to our refusal to share food equitably across national boundaries than to a lack of food overall. To claim that corporate-controlled GMO crops are needed to solve such shortages is to ignore and exacerbate the systems and inequalities that create these problems in the first place.

The Co-op endorses I-522 – Washington’s genetically modified food labeling act.

The Co-op endorses I-522, Washington’s “Right to Know” GMO labeling act. Labeling GMO foods is important because:

- People have a right to know what is in their food
- Food sovereignty cannot be achieved if information is not freely available
- Without knowing which foods contain GMOs, we can’t conduct large-scale epidemiological studies to determine whether they are effecting human health

For these reasons, and all of those stated previously in this article, the Olympia Food Co-op strongly supports I-522 and urges our members to contribute, volunteer, and vote YES in November’s election. For more on the I-522 campaign, go to yesson522.com.