



Board Meeting Minutes

October 22nd, 2013

Attendance: Jayne Rossman (*Staff Rep*), Dani Madrone, Cezanne Murphy-Levesque, John Regan, Nikki Bilodeau, Josh Simpson, Jason (*Notes*)

Absent: Ron Lavigne, Teresa Young, Isabella Rogol, Erin Genia,

#### Agenda

Announcements  
Mission Statement & Commitments Review  
Member Comment  
Staff Report  
Annual Meeting and Elections  
Task Force  4  
Committee Reports  
Commitments  
Next Meeting

#### Announcements

- Jayne is facilitating
- Dani mentions a conversation from the Envirotalk list-serve, in which was expressed a concern about ADA access. This ties into the Co-op providing things that people have to go to other places to get, e.g. adult diapers and other special needs items. Dani reminded the members of the list-serve about our low-income and senior discounts, which are very appreciated in her household.
- No executive session; it will happen in November.

#### Member Comment

- Janine Unsoeld is a caregiver, and the Co-op means a lot to her. She does press

for *SPEECH* South Puget Sound (*Green Pages*, also). Thanks for advertising in *SPEECH*. Some ad rate increases for that will be happening in next issue. She's also part of EnviroTalk - a list-serve of *SPEECH*. Her blog is Janine's Little Hollywood on Blogspot. Diane Gassway introduced her to the NWCDC. No liquor is one reason people go to other stores. Appreciates that Co-op is one place that people can go to the store without having liquor in their face. This is especially important for people in recovery. "I'm glad that clients let me do their shopping for them, but I do know that my clients are leery of the doors on the Westside [hard to push]. I've had back issues. Keep our aging population in mind as we continue. Thank You." (Later Janine is informed of the automatic door at the Westside. She's never noticed it and glad to know that it's there)

- Max DeJarnett: Thanks for publishing our letter (against GMO labeling). I don't want to talk about your response, cause that's a bigger discussion. We're having a meeting at Traditions, if you want to continue the conversation. Nov. 4th. The Co-op came out strong against the GMO thing. I was reading a lot about it. I'm losing a connection to the Co-op. I think the Co-op is doing good things in community; but I don't think there's merit to organics, health or environmental concerns. I question the added value of organics and they should be packaged in a way that if people want to spend money on them, it's their choice. Does the Co-op have an eco committee that looks objectively at products? Is there less environmental impact from local? I don't think so, I'm 99% sure it's not better. Want to be sure these have been considered objectively. I sent a blog post about it, and other paper work. Countries are rejecting food-aid because the food is GMO. Trend away from tech in agriculture is hurting people who need it most. I love the Co-op's accessibility. "OMG GMO" movie. Made comment about it in suggestion box. Joanna/Board replied. Don't want us to be afraid of tech in new century. John: At Cecocessola, their Co-op members, they sell organic food, also discovered that we sell organic foods. Consuming organic food is healthy. Why would the farmers associated with Cecocessola produce organic foods? It's because of the incidents of child deformities, blindness, and the general health of agricultural workers. Health deteriorated so much, that they switched to organic. Argentina (article in

*The Olympian*) switched from corn to soy. As soy grows and crops become more resistant, more pesticides have to be used. You've alluded to those places that you've never visited in your presentation. Max: GMOs are good because it reduces amount of pesticides. John says that it GMO causes an increase in pesticides. Max: maybe we should export our usage standards. Dani: Is it better to support local? It's a part of the mission, so we would have to change the mission. Jayne: We have an eco-planning committee; but there's no committee to study GMO's and organics. If you want to come back with a proposal, please do. If we dropped organic, local, and non-GMO, what would differentiate the Co-op from WinCo?

#### Staff Report

Jayne read the Staff Report submitted by the Big Picture Coordination Action Team

Accountability survey completed. Feedback on evaluation systems figured prominently.

WS fire update: John suggests a two-hour barrier for overhang over back door.

#### Annual Meeting & Election Plans

Not much has changed, except we don't have Citizens Band, which is fine, because we have a lot of other info to cover.

Menu reviewed.

Nikki can procure coffee from Olympia Coffee Roasters.

Planning for two hundred which is more than last year. Down to twelve candidates. Kim Chaplin and Casey dropped.

Please encourage people to vote.

Nikki: we should do a doodle for tabling for before the election is over.

Jayne: ES: dangling signs for Voting. If anyone has desire to work on it, I will help you put it up.

Dani would be happy to help for WS.

Cezanne: Concern about election speeches. I don't want us to be caught off guard – what's our plan for responding to hubbub?

Jayne: has had no problem with speeches around boycott; time limits and requests for civility are our standby plans.

Janine: There's no contact info listed for candidates.

Jayne: we don't post individual addresses, but we can forward questions to them. Contact us at [ofcboard@olympiafood.coop](mailto:ofcboard@olympiafood.coop)

How should we notify the membership that a couple of candidates have dropped out?

There are signs near the ballot boxes. Most of ballots we get come in through ballot boxes in the store.

Dani: what happens if people come campaigning for certain people to be on the ballot?

Jayne: If they're polite, I think it'll be fine.

Dani: is there going to be childcare?

Jayne: if you have contacts for childcare, WM credit or pay, let me know.

- Dani: will check in with Monica Peabody / Oly childcare collective.

John, Cezanne, Nikki can be there early. Nikki can stay late.

We have the room starting at noon. Please be there at 12:15.

Task Force ☐ 4

Possible legal status change Annual Meeting presentation!

Cezanne: Harry, Teresa, and I met about the presentation.

Basic presentation will include:

Where we are, how we're incorporated, what that means, with brief overview of the two options:

1. Going to Co-op patronage (member dividends) (no reason to change unless we want patronage).
2. Multi-stake Co-op; e.g. Staff level and Member level. Could be however we define it. Staff, At-large membership, Working Members.

The presentation will basically be: We took a year to investigate, and here is our summary. Take some time at your tables to discuss and let us know what we want to work on in this next year and what the next steps are.

Dani: recommend that each table have a scribe.

Jayne: butcher paper on tables.

- Jayne will be purchasing butcher paper.

John: would a change in incorporation status change the decision-making structure?

Jayne: That's the kind of question we'll be asking at the meeting. As the board, we need to take that and make a plan for next year. There's money in the budget for board outreach. Could the presentation define the problem we're trying to solve? Part of this came out of the Co-op Conversation; people were confused about what/who we are. The topic was then added to the strategic priorities at the 2012 Board retreat.

We'd love to have more of this publicized.

- Jayne will email agenda again

Dani: childcare is important for these events.

- Jayne will send request to Board members not here tonight
- Nikki will do presentation for bylaws

- Nikki will send email to Jayne

#### Committee Reports

**Member Relations**- Did not meet.

**Local**- Conflicts with John's schedule.

**Co-op Development**- Did not meet

**Bylaws review**- Will plan for bylaws change presentation and info at the Annual Meeting.

**Standing Hiring**- Niki didn't go

**Expansion**-Niki didn't go. Finance cat looking into possibility of a loan. Looking into the feasibility of new flooring at the Westside. Current flooring is 20+ years old, but it might be a problem if replacing them requires the store to close. We think there are ways to do it that will minimize closure. Maxim is training for facilitating group.

**Bylaws** (Niki) -We're working on the annual meeting presentation.

**Finance** (Cezanne)-Meeting next week.

**Personnel** (Cezanne)- Nothing new to report.

Dani may want to come to Collective meetings.

Thad Curtz: energy efficiency for WS issues addressed by the Co-op. He has energy willing to put into it during expansion, which is the time to do it.

Jayne: it's part of the Eastside plan to do many of these things. It's not in the Westside budget, however.

Board committees should change schedule according to Board's availability. Nikki and John have had issues with scheduling.

Cezanne thinks it would be great if we could cut meeting times to an hour if there's no agenda.

#### Commitments

- Dani: will check-in with Monica Peabody / Oly childcare collective.
- Jayne will be purchasing butcher paper.
- Jayne will email agenda again
- Jayne will send request to board not here tonight
- Nikki will do presentation for bylaws
- Nikki will send email to Jayne
- Jayne: post annual meeting pre-election deadline tabling

#### Next Meeting

- Firearm proposal
- Committee Reports
- Board committees include: Outreach, Finance, Personnel, Local, Co-op Development, Hiring, Member Relations and Expansion. Currently, these reports also include two task forces: legal structure review, and bylaws review.
- Executive Session – next round communication drafts
- Jayne's leaving; transitioning into new people.
- Board choosing someone as Board press contact.