



## Board Meeting Minutes

12.19.2013

**Attendance:** : Jayne Rossman (*Staff Rep*), Grace Cox (*facilitator*), Fern Moore (*Notes/ Board Observer*), Niki Bilodeau, Teresa Young, Dani Madrone, Isabella Rogol, Erin Genia, John Regan, Cezanne Murphy-Levesque, Josh Simpson

**Absent:** Ron Lavigne

## Agenda

**Announcements**  
**Mission Statement**  
**Commitments Review**  
**Member Comment**  
**Staff Report**  
**Peoples House request for support**  
**Typhoon relief round up proposal**  
**2014 Budget**  
**Break**  
**Eating Local article discussion**  
**Review of committees and task forces**  
**Committee Reports**  
**Executive Session**  
**Commitments review**  
**Meeting Eval**

## Announcements

- We thank Cezanne and Ron for their service on the Board
- New bumper stickers are here! Jayne brought one for each Board member
- Fern is going on vacation for two weeks
- Alejandro is here and will be the Staff Board Rep for the next 13 months
- Incoming Board Members Mo and Michael attended
- Erin will not be at the next meeting she will be out of the country
- Isabella will be out of the country for three months from January - March. She will be skyping in to our monthly meetings and into her committee meetings. She also will be available via email.

## Commitments Review

- **Jayne will contact Cezanne and Teresa about presenting legal identity at collective meetings**  
COMPLETE
- **Isa, Dani and Erin will meet after they receive annual meeting feedback to construct next steps on the legal identity work**  
PENDING
- **Teresa will transcribe table papers from annual meeting**  
COMPLETE
- **Jayne will create a doodle poll about the Staff Board task force**  
COMPLETE
- **Jayne will send out a doodle poll for incoming BOD members to debrief. All BOD members are also welcome to attend**  
PENDING
- **Jayne will talk to Corey about updating bylaws**  
IN PROCESS
- **Jayne will invite all incoming Board Members to the December Meeting**  
COMPLETE
- **Fern will edit October Minutes and send out to all**  
COMPLETE

## Member Comment

**Meg Martin** – Interfaith works shelter and Peoples House director

**Greg Black** – has the opportunity to attend board meetings, truly values the co-op and interested in seeing how it works.

## Staff Report

The collective has been having a really busy fall, of course, but lots of good work.

1. The budget process has been long and sometimes difficult but a lot of great collaboration and negotiation and feel successful.
2. November in the stores was very busy but we feel like we pulled off the big turkey season without too many hitches.
3. Many proposals going to staff through our journals, including Philippines typhoon donations collection, a new Bottle Deposit system for chill products, new Volunteer Coordination Team job description, and many staff moving into new job descriptions as well as New Staff from last hiring taking lots of coordination and starting to join the collective. 2 staff are now on leave: Marie and Monica.
4. We have been working on the detailed review of the Personnel Handbook in the collective meetings, that process is ongoing.
5. We are starting to implement further stages of the new POS system, such as the supplier gateway ordering system.

## Peoples House request for Support

Meg Martin presented. Interfaith Works for the last 20 yrs has been managing an ad hoc shelter in Olympia for single men and women. A number of churches host the shelter for a two week time, and coordinate volunteers to staff the shelter. The men's shelter moves periodically as does the women's shelter. The faith communities are becoming less able to maintain the system, sheltering is hard on the facilities; volunteers are older and not able to sleep on the floor mats. The need has grown in recent times, because of the lack of mental health resources; there are a higher number of people in the

shelters that have more challenges. This requires more training for volunteers to deal with these changes. Thurston county hired a homeless coordinator who did a gaps audit, one of the gaps was a shelter for adults without children. Last year the city passed ordinances that banned camping in various places. Meg was a street coordinator for EGYHOP. She advocated at city hall against the ordinances, begging that the city provide alternatives. It was clear that there were no alternatives and they passed the ordinances. Her Masters thesis was to create that alternative, which is the 'Peoples House'. Interfaith is non-profit sponsor. Meg has become the coordinator for the women's shelter as well. They got significant funding from the county for the first year capital expenditures. They have to navigate the politics of citing a homeless shelter for single people; there is a lot of stigma associated with this particular group especially homeless man. She would like to ask the Co-op for formal support. They tried to site the shelter earlier this year and there was a lot of misinformation. They are looking to create a group of supporting businesses and organizations. She would like the Co-op to hang signs. The signs are hand lettered pressed. They would like to also list us as a supporter. She adds that as a community 'We have to have an emergency response for the people that are unsheltered.'

**Proposal: The Olympia Food Co-op supports the low barrier shelter People's House on the website and posting their flyers in the stores.**

**Consent**

**Stand Aside** – Dani Madrone

(Conflict of interest as she works with Interfaith Works)

#### **Typhoon relief roundup at the registers**

Staff Member Keziah presented this proposal. The Staff recently approved the roundup for a three-month period. There was a Super typhoon in November of this year that hit the central islands of the Philippines. There are many efforts to help in the world and within our community. It will take many years to rebuild and this is our opportunity as a community to help. The National Federation of Cooperatives is a grassroots organization in the Philippines that also have representation on the Philippine congress. Many of the Co-ops were directly affected; donations would support reconstruction and their livelihood. They are also affiliated with the International Co-op Alliance. The other is Gabriella that is a grass roots organization that advocates for women's rights. Signage will be posted at the registers, and Outreach is preparing a brief communication for online venues.

**Proposal: The Olympia Food Co-op Board authorizes the typhoon relief round up at the registers which will be active for three months.**

**Consent**

#### **2014 Budget**

Grace presented the budget to the board. The final recommendation from the finance committee shows a \$2,000 loss. There are 'aces in the hole' are that we have been experiencing stellar growth in fourth quarter, and overall revenue has been up. Secondly, Staff have already consented on three options to offset health care costs that could possibly be enacted in the event of a failing budget.

**Proposal: The Board authorizes the 2014 budget on the recommendation of the Finance Committee.**

**Consent**

### **Eating Local article discussion**

Multiple articles have been published in national publications against eating local. Which is a push back on current trends of local foods. This issue could be a context for another exchange. The role of co-ops in building a local economy that is controlled by the community. CECOSOLA is a co-operative that feeds over a million people. The soil they work is exhausted. The fertile valley is controlled by sugar crops that are controlled by global corporations. Sugar is rationed in the community of Barquisemto.

This would be a great opportunity to learn how local co-ops and small enterprises control a local food system in an environment where large agri-business is entrenched. How local economies can control their communities. The Co-op Development committee has been discussing how to create another exchange and CECOSOLA is very interested. They are looking at Spring 2015 for the exchange.

This would be a great response to the conversation that includes food sovereignty, GMO's, agri-business, organic, etc.

Erin adds that she could see a panel discussion with people who are involved in native food sovereignty movements locally and nationally.

### **Review of committees and Task forces**

Jayne led a basic review of committees and task forces and membership to prepare for the incoming Board members in January. There is concern about the meeting times of committees meeting the schedules of our volunteer board members day schedules.

- **Jayne will contact board committee facilitators about meeting schedules being accessible to Board Members schedules**

#### *Committees*

Eco Planning – defunct committee, with general agreement on restarting the committee

Personnel – has two Board members, this should be evaluated.

Finance – is down one member

Outreach – Niki is willing to give it up to another board member or her place on standing hiring

#### *Task forces*

Task force #4

Staff BOD task force

Elections taskforce – split into outreach and MRC, no need for an extra task force

Next meeting, we will have a document of open spots with which we will be assigning new memberships.

### **Committee Reports**

**Finance** – worked on the budget and presented it at this meeting

**Outreach** - looked over plans for next year and projects in queue (elections, Board outreach, voter turnout, annual meeting, formalizing round up process.)

**Personnel** - continued work on handbook

**Local**- has not met. A lot of committee members have moved on.

**Co-op Development-** emailed about today's agenda item '**Eating local article discussion**'

**Hiring** - new staff members are on the committee

**Member Relations** – final drafted rights and responsibilities for members

**Expansion** – the committee has been working on a handoff for the group facilitation. They are also in full work mode with garden center project with to do lists and timelines. They will be contacting Finance to add to the budget for a mobile pos unit. They also are working on finalizing Westside remodel with MCAT. They have money in the budget for new flooring, and are trying to figure out how to do it without closing the store and talking to other co-ops for ideas. The Eastside project has them considering contracting with the Development Co-op a subsidiary of the NCGA, they would help with planning and drafts of financial Performa.

**Legal structure review** - presented at the recent staff meetings, gathered lots of questions.

- **Jayne will contact Erin and Eric to see if they need support with the local committee**

#### **Commitments**

- **Isa, Dani and Erin will meet after they receive annual meeting feedback to construct next steps on the legal identity work**  
PENDING
- **Jayne will contact board committee facilitators about meeting schedules being accessible to Board Members schedules as they are committees of the Board**
- **Jayne will contact Erin and Eric to see if they need support with the local committee**
- **Jayne will send out a doodle poll for incoming BOD members to debrief. All BOD members are also welcome to attend**  
PENDING

#### **Executive Session**

#### **Decisions out of Meetings**

**October Meeting Minutes – Consent**

**Stand Aside – Ron Lavigne, Teresa Young, Erin Genia**

**November Meeting Minutes- Consent**

**Stand Aside**