



Board Meeting Minutes

10.23.2014

Attendance:

Niki Bilodeau, John Regan, Isabella Rogol, Mohammed El-Sokkary, Erin Genia Micheal Snow, Josh Simpson, Fern Moore (*Board Observer*), Alejandro Rugarcia (*Staff Representative*), Grace Cox (*Facilitator*)

Absent: Teresa Young, Dani Madrone

Agenda

Agenda Review
Announcements
Mission Statement
Commitments Review
Member Comment
Board Budget for 2015
Annual Board Retreat
Appropriate use of the disclaimer
Staff report
Committee Reports
Executive Session
Commitments
Meeting Eval

Announcements

- Erin resigned from the Member Relations committee; Dani is still on the committee but cannot make the meetings. We will wait for the new year to assign new Board members.
- Niki will be late.
- Elections signage will be posted at the polling stations, with information about the by law changes and the staggered term lengths.
- The Board boards are here.

Commitments Review

- ***Alejandro will coordinate getting the Farmland Trust on the MCAT agenda complete***
- ***Grace will send out a doodle poll complete***
- ***All Board members will consider an amendments to the Board budget for 2015 complete***

Member Comment

None

Board Budget for 2015

The Board reviewed the Board budget for 2015. We spend \$60 a month for meeting food. Other expenses include Member emails, for forums The Member Relations committee had discussed more communication in the coming year with the membership. Two forums are planned for April and July. Expenses also include trainings, Board retreat, election expense, Annual meeting/elections, gifts etc. yielding a total of \$12,220. The CECOCESOLA exchange is expensed from the 2014 profit distribution. The Board added \$250 for tabling, \$100 for updating Board board. Total – \$12,770

Proposal – The Board approves the 2015 Board budget Consent

- ***Grace will submit the final Board Budget***

Annual Board Retreat

First weekend of Dec 6 or 7

Or last weekend of Nov 29th or 30th

Jayne will be facilitating and hosting the retreat,

There is preference to have the new Board members attend

The weekend of the 6th and 7th might be a better weekend for everyone.

- ***Fern will email the candidates to the possible retreat dates of Dec 6th and 7th***

Staff Report

All Staff are incredibly engaged and involved in crafting a 2015 budget. Although the Board approved a 2.5% profit goal don't hold your breath, we are committed to a positive cash flow. New hires are concluding 6-month evaluations. They have a few more trainings to complete before they are eligible for the collective. We continue to do work on the accountability system. Staff will be asking for Board involvement in the discount discussion. For a 16.5 million dollar budget there will be 1 million dollars in discounts. We want to form a discount task force, which mandates Board involvement. It will include Staff, Board and Members at large. Also an advisory committee, including service provision allies (POWER, EGYHOP etc) to serve the task force. The hope is to clarify the intent of the discounts, and confirm intent. The proposal to establish the task force is going through final consent with Staff; they will be soliciting Board members upon its approval. There are three staff members on leave, one is returning. Sales are up! Especially at the Westside Store!

Appropriate use of the disclaimer

Mo from Staff attended to discuss the disclaimer use in the newsletter. The editor could not attend, but is completely open to engaging directly with the Board as needed. There are no set guidelines in usage of the disclaimer. It is used off and on. In this case specific case the editor made a decision to put it in. A general disclaimer would be good to publish, but to single out a particular article has implications.

There seems to be a general lack of communication with authors, and if there were an issue or question there would be opportunity to respond. Alejandro acknowledges that he perhaps may have had more of a direct role in ushering articles from the Board. The Board would like to see more open channels of communication with the newsletter and editor. Any issues or changes will be addressed directly with the authors. Policy changes to the newsletter lie with the Member Relations committee. In the past there was a Board member assigned to the newsletter team that proofed every issue, it was a lot of work. There are ways that we could explore that option again. The overall Editorial policy, parameters and guidelines should be reviewed.

The Board of Directors would like the Member Relations committee to review the editorial policy, specifically the use of disclaimers, communications, parameters and guidelines.

Committee Reports

Co-Sound- Co-ops that attended the last meeting include the New Moon, Flaming Eggplant, NW Construction Co-operative, and students. They reviewed a report from CECOCESOLA, they are interested in the possible exchange for 2015 and have already chosen delegates. The committee discussed the 2015 budget and discussed outreach. They hope to have a Skype meeting with CECOCESOLA.

Local- discussed an upcoming article for the newsletter about conservation easements, land trusts; farm trusts and farm easements, what they are and what they achieve. They are also discussing a farm tour for next year, focusing on land conservation. They debriefed the Harvest Festival and held their budget discussion.

Expansion – the committee recently brought proposals to the Staff Collective around the Eastside expansion. They are moving ahead with feasibility and market studies. The Market study includes; capacity of market, fulfillment, how large the market area is.

Hiring – has not met

Finance- will be meeting

Staff Board relations- went to the collective to gather feedback about staff representation.

Member Relations- Everyone should have all received the agenda for the Annual meeting, which they have been working hard on. They have been looking at our charter, and noticed inaccuracies around some of our responsibilities. They are going to review it after the Annual meeting. They have produced a proposal for the policy on donations collection at the registers. The Board had a few questions regarding the proposal, but would like to review it during the agenda in November.

How long will emergency funds be funded? Will there be defined Length of terms? Will it be limited to three months?
Please add date to proposal

Executive Session

Proposal:

The Board approves the donations for the Boards profit distribution from 2013-2014.

Consent

Proposal:

The Board approves the expense of the \$800 for the Board Board from the Board budget.

Consent