



Board Meeting Minutes 5.21.2015

Attendance: Eric Mapes, Desdra Dawning, Teresa Young, Isabella Rogol, Matthew Schmezler, Max DeJarnatt, Habib Serhan, Mohammed El-Sokkary, Fern Moore (*Board Observer*), Jayne Rossman, Mo Tobin (*Temporary Staff Representative*), Grace Cox (*Facilitator*)

Absent - Micheal Snow

Agenda

Agenda Review
Announcements
Mission Statement
Commitments Review
Member Comment
I-735 Olympia Move to Amend
Staff Report
Committee Reports
Expansion
Board report commitment review
Organizational Health proposal
Communications
Commitments
Meeting Eval

Announcements

- Laura will try to be here tonight but may not show up till 8 pm
- Max will be attending the March against Monsanto this weekend to represent the March against Myths about modification.

Commitments Review

- *Max will begin drafting a Advocacy Committee charter complete, will review next month*
- *Fern will forward the feedback and requests from the Board concerning the membership database upgrade complete*

- **Fern will coordinate a meeting of the elections task force with Eric and Desdra - pending**
- **Eric will look at the bylaws and start drafting incentives and possible bylaw changes to allow for online voting complete**
- **Jayne will contact MRC about attending the board meeting in June to go over the communications and structure. pending**
- **Fern will send the draft of board staff relations to Desdra and Eric. complete**
- **Desdra will check in with the newsletter about upcoming deadlines and send this to fern (fern will create a list with board members to author reports and send back to the newsletter so that board and newsletter have the same information) see agenda item (board report commitments)**

Member Comment

- **Jane Stanvish-** appalled by the comment made by Board member Max DeJarnatt on the Olympian newspaper. She is very disappointed that one person would represent the co-op on an issue that the Board did not vote on. The community looks to the Board to represent the community. Jane wrote an email to the Board and left a phone message. She has lost trust in the board, and one particular member. People are not here to speak about it because they are busy. This was a huge mistake and was a huge blunder. As a Co-op member she asks him to resign from the Board. He misrepresented the Boards standing and opinion. Board members should be trained about the dos and don'ts around communication.

Max responded that he had no intention that he was speaking on behalf of the Co-op. He has removed the Board of director's widget on his Facebook page. Board Members are trained in communication and processes. The Board discussed this request and decided not to act on it. We recognize that this issue stemmed primarily from a posting error. The next step for the Board is to develop a clearer set of expectations of Directors, including external communications and clarity between personal opinions and consented to statements of the Board as a whole.

I-735 Olympia Move to Amend

Christie Johnson attended to present.

[WAmend.org](http://www.wamend.org) launched the I-735 campaign last weekend in Seattle and Spokane. The Olympia Move to Amend chapter launched by collecting signatures at Arts Walk and the Dragon Boat Festival. They successfully filled 8 sheets Friday night and Saturday. This is a very good beginning.

There is a lot of information on the WAmend web site: <http://www.wamend.org/>

WAMEND's Long-Term Objectives

The WAMEND Coalition is working for passage and ratification of an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that restores democracy to we the people by getting money out of politics and restoring constitutional rights for human beings, not corporations.

We have three long-term objectives:

1. *To ensure that every Congressional representative from Washington state supports a constitutional amendment,*
2. *To ensure that the Washington State legislature ultimately ratifies the amendment passed by the U.S. Congress, and,*
3. *To create a grass roots organization that is a national model for state level bottom-up organizing.*

What has drawn her to the campaign?

Christie is a lifelong resident of Olympia. She has participated in politics peripherally over the years. Sometimes she gives 20 -25 dollars in campaign donations at the county level or less. She has been disenchanted about how little her contribution has in impact. In the past 3 or 4 thousand dollars used to get a candidate through a city council campaign, now it requires \$20,000. She completed her MPA at Evergreen and was exposed to many issues in grad school, those issues are not moving forward in a satisfying or in an inclusive way.

The Supreme Court has gradually and more completely included corporation rights. We will never move forward if we have big money pulling the strings from the top. In order to overturn this we need to amend the constitution, which we have not done since the 1960s. We need a super majority in congress and all 50 states. We are trying to make a public statement that the state of Washington is in support of amending the constitution. Corporate media does not talk about this issue, because it is not in their interest, we need to use alternative means to reach the people. All signature collectors are volunteers.

In just the 5 years since Citizens United, we have 16 states that passed the resolution to amend. We would be the 17th, this is moving very fast. We can do it. 650 cities and communities have passed this resolution. Before citizens united, the government had regulations, but they do not any longer and the ones that do remain are not being enforced. There are no campaign finance regulations for federal elections.

Jayne spoke in support of the initiative.

Proposal-

The Olympia Food Co-op Board of Directors endorses the I-735 Olympia Move to amend initiative.

Consent

Stand Aside- Mo Tobin- *staff has not considered it yet*

Proposal-

The Olympia Food Co-op Board of Directors agree to make the I-735 Olympia Move to amend initiative petition available in stores, pending staff approval. The I-735 volunteers will maintain the petition.

Consent

Stand Aside

- ***Desdra will write an article for the newsletter about the I-735 initiative.***
- ***Fern will post the I-735 initiative proposal in the staff proposal journal for staff approval***
- ***Fern will follow up with the I-735 initiative volunteers to set up petitions in the stores***

Staff Report

This month's Collective meetings concentrated on the Expansion proposals and a long and emotional discussion around trespassed shoplifters, and increasing safety inside the store. The big conversation was whether or not to add additional security cameras and how to make that decision. All of us have a high level of reactions, and are aware of the implications. We needed to test how people felt about it. The notion was taken back to the drawing board from a process challenge. We also hired four new staff that will begin soon. Starting to see sales growth at the Eastside again!

Committee Reports

Discount Task Force- this taskforce needs Board members. Staff members have been selected. They will be reviewing the discounts. (Teresa and Eric)

Co Sound - continued work on the exchange. There is an indie go-go campaign to fund the exchange <https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/2nd-cecosesola-washington-cooperative-exchange#/story>. They also talked with Staff members about the Co-op network and creating an annual strategic plan.

Finance- reviewed first quarter statements. We only do inventory twice a year, so margin is estimated. We do not know exactly how profitable we were based on the first quarter statements. Sales were below budget, but expenses were under spent so we did show some profit. The finance team also met with the banker to check in on three things, about a line of credit if cash drops, introduce the expansion project at the Eastside and if they are interested in being a lender, and working with the NCG loan fund which they were. They also talked about succession plans.

Personnel- continued work on the staff handbook

Local- continued planning on the Local Eats event, and assigned tasks. Scheduled the next meeting for after the event to evaluate it. The Local Eats will be June 13th at the Westside and June 14th at the Eastside.

Standing hiring- hired folks.

Member Relations- discussed Member Relations Committee responsibilities within the Expansion process. There was discussion about the security cameras and usage policies. Reviewed the charter, and needed more detail and clarification in the redraft process. Communications gatekeeper job description is being worked on in the Front End department. They discussed email complaints, and where they will go. There was discussion about printing the Member Guide to be used for tabling and being available in the stores. They talked about the round up policy process and where the responsibilities lie. They also discussed the Annual Meeting responsibilities. Member engagement and elections

Expansion- see later agenda item

Eco Planning - has not met

Board Staff Relations- They are redrafting the draft based on the Board feedback gathered in December and January.

Expansion

SEE ATTACHED PDF FILES 1-3

In the 1992 expansion there was a big process document that laid out all decision making and input points. One thing that is nice about this expansion it is less complicated, in 1992 we were going to a second store, increasing staff by double and created many new committees to support the organization. We have the infrastructure to support this expansion. Staff asked for a process proposal after the organization hired the Development Co-op to perform the feasibility study. The expansion committee based this process document from the 92 process.

Maxim and Jayne presented the overall Process overview which is currently going through the staff consent process. Changes were made and submitted for approval by the Collective and re proposed via the proposal journal.

Maxim reviewed the 'Statement of the Unity' which will probably not change based on Staff feedback.

The 'Project Parameters and Priorities' document was approved by two of the three collective meetings. This document will be revised and re proposed via the journal.

Proposal #1

The Olympia Food Co-op Board of Directors approves the 'Eastside Expansion process' proposal document.

Consent

Proposal #2

The Olympia Food Co-op Board of Directors approves the 'Statement of Unity'

Consent

Proposal #3

The Olympia Food Co-op Board of Directors approves the 'Project Parameters and Priorities'

Consent

Stand Aside- Mo Tobin

The Board understands and acknowledges that the Staff Collective has not approved all of these proposals. Any and all changes made during the Staff consent process will be presented to the Board.

There is another Expansion document that will be brought next month about feedback processes and agreements.

Board Report commitments

June 1 for July/Aug/Sept issue- *Max*

Sept 1 for Oct/Nov issue- *Isabella*

Nov 1 for Dec/Jan issue- *Mohammed*

Organizational Health Proposal

They have met twice with the Big Picture CAT and there is willingness to move forward. Mo will bring it to the Collective in July, to solicit staff committee members and feedback on the basic idea.

Commitments

- *Fern will change 'Co-sound' committee from 'co-op development' committee*

- *Desdra will write an article for the newsletter about the I-735 initiative.*
- *Fern will post the I-735 initiative proposal in the staff proposal journal for staff approval*
- *Fern will follow up with the I-735 initiative volunteers to set up petitions in the stores*
- *Fern will coordinate a meeting of the elections task force with Eric and Desdra*

Next Meeting

- Expansion
- Organizational Health Task Force
- Advocacy committee
- Elections
- Board Retreat inquiry
- Member Relations
- Board agreements and expectations

Decisions out of Meeting

1. Approval of April Meeting Minutes

Via email

Consent

Stand Aside- Isabella Rogol, Matthew Schmezler