



Board Meeting Minutes

4.16.2015

Attendance: Eric Mapes, Desdra Dawning, Teresa Young, Micheal Snow, Max DeJarnatt, Habib Serhan, Mohammed El-Sokkary, Fern Moore (*Board Observer*), Jayne Rossman, (*Staff Representative*), Grace Cox (*Facilitator*)

Absent - Isabella Rogol, Matthew Schmezler,

Agenda

Agenda Review

Announcements

Mission Statement

Commitments Review

Member Comment

Member Relations Committee and Outreach Review

Strategic Priorities 2015

Membership Database upgrade

Staff Report

Expansion Review (*agenda item tabled, reviewed in committee reports*)

Clarifying Board Terms

Committee Reports

Commitments

Meeting Eval

Announcements

- Jayne will be leaving the Co-op in May. We will be proposing Laura as the Staff Rep to replace Jayne. Laura will be attending tonight's meeting. Jayne will be attending the May and June meetings.

Member Comment

- *Cristi Johnson* – Last year there was Initiative 1320 in which they attempted to gather 175,000 signatures to overturn Citizens United. They did not get enough signatures. There is now Initiative I-735. They are hoping that the Board will support the Initiative. Cristi remembers signing the I-522 initiative in our stores, she wonders if this might be available for their initiative. This is part of a national movement, citizens united is a decision made in 2010, concerning big money in fundraising, politicians are bought and paid for. Corporations are not people. They have until December to collect signatures.

Grace said that it is rare to have initiatives in store, but we do encourage people to table and gather signatures outside of the store. Jayne shared the Board email, and suggested that it be put on the next month's agenda. They will send the endorsement and applicable information to the Board email. Desdra is interested in putting together something for the newsletter.

- *Greg Black* –attended from the Community Sustaining Fund (CSF), inquiring about the round up policy that is in process with the Member relations committee. Is there a Board member that he can work with to be a liaison with him and this work?
Jayne suggested that he email the Board directly, Jayne will talk with him about it.

Greg also suggested that with the new membership card system that an automatic roundup be added.

Fern will forward this suggestion to Mo.

The spring application round is beginning for the CSF. Applications are due May 1st. Interviews will be held May 8th- 9th. CSF is looking for a Board member who would want to part of the interview process. Isa and Dani have both participated in years past.

Teresa is interested in participating.

Commitments Review

- ***Mo will send the draft of the privacy commitment to our membership to the Board and Staff.***
Sent out to staff, fern will forward to the Board
- ***Jayne will review the board page on the new website to ensure it is accurate***
Complete, sent updates.
- ***The Organizational Task Force will meet with BPC*** Complete
- ***Fern will check back in the Eco planning Collective Members*** Complete
- ***Fern will cc the Board members on the committee as well.*** Complete
- ***Jayne will send Max a committee charter*** Complete
- ***Max will begin drafting a Advocacy Committee charter*** Pending
- ***The Membership systems upgrade proposal(s) will be presented for an email consent process.***
On agenda today

Member Relations and Outreach Review

Keziah and Janie attended as Staff people on the Member Relations committee. There used to be an Outreach committee of the Board, but it had become very operations focused. We split Outreach into an operational group. A new charter was created for the Member Relations , shortly after the new Outreach committee merged with Member relations committee.

Recently there was a process that Member Relations Committee (MRC) looked at the charter and broke out tasks. Unfortunately, we believe that they were using an old version of the charter. Some tasks were lost and are not assigned to either committee. Jayne went to an MRC committee meeting to clarify. The Board reviewed the charters of both MRC and Outreach in the meeting.

MRC coordinated last year's meeting, for the first time. The Board still created the agenda. MRC is interested in coordinating the location, food etc. They would like to participate in informing the agenda. They want to host members in an engaging and exciting way, to hopefully boost attendance.

Should all the tasks left out of charters go back to the Board, or somewhere else?

End of year donations – *no written process, based on precedence.*

Elections- *coordinated by the Board observer last year.*

Next steps

- Designate a month that MRC will attend a Board meeting to determine the Annual meeting agenda
- MRC will bring back language about adding ('brainstorm and implement strategies for increasing member involvement in elections') to their charter in the purpose.
- Staff Rep to the Board and MRC will clarify budgeting for the Annual meeting

Membership Database upgrade

This was presented at the March Meeting. The Board did not have quorum at that meeting. There was continued discussion about creating a policy on privacy and data including, that we never sell members information policy. The Board's approval of these proposals is dependent upon a final statement and policy from Staff member Mo regarding data privacy.

Proposal 1:

The Olympia Food Co-op will integrate its membership database records into our Point of Sale System in 2015.

Consent

Stand Aside- 0

Proposal 2:

The Low Income Membership type will continue as a fee-free membership, with a dues requirement of 1 cent per year.

Consent

Stand Aside- 0

- ***Fern will forward the feedback and requests from the Board concerning the membership database upgrade***

Staff Report

There has been yet more turnover with staff resignations. The Collective continues to grapple with what to do with staffing. We have come to consensus this week to hire again this year, it will spin us into another round of new staff training which will have a financial impact, but will provide us with

some much needed relief. We are aware that this was not our preference for this year. The new hires are due to start June 1st.

The Expansion process proposal was presented to staff and feedback was gathered. We also discussed our vacation policy and systems. The Collective investigated new approaches around our vacation policy and is working on building consensus.

Strategic priorities 2015

These ideas were initially brainstormed at the Board retreat in December of 2014. The Board further discussed these ideas at the February Board Meeting.

1. The future of expansion *(parking lot) dependant on organizational vision*
2. Organizational vision *(parking lot) dependant on organizational eval*
3. Organizational evaluation -**Teresa**
4. Elections – **Eric, Fern, Desdra** will assemble a task force and will begin pursuing voting incentives, organizing overall elections process and tabling, and also figure out possibilities and possible online ballot options.
5. Process to clarify communications and structure – *member relations presentation on this topic at future board meeting*

Next steps-

Prioritize this list with parking lot dependencies.

- ***Fern will coordinate a meeting of the elections task force with Eric and Desdra***
- ***Eric will look at the bylaws and start drafting incentives and possible bylaw changes to allow for online voting***
- ***Jayne will contact MRC about attending the board meeting in June to go over the communications and structure.***

Clarifying Board Terms

Max- 2015-2017

Habib – 2015-2018

Mo – 2014-2016

Desdra- 2015-2017

Matthew- 2015-2018

Micheal- 2014-2016

Teresa- 2015-2018

Eric- 2014-2016

Isabella- 2014-2016

This leaves four seats that will be open for election in the 2015 elections.

Proposal –

The Board clarifies that they appointed directors Eric Mapes into Josh Simpson's seat and Desdra Dawning into Mary Blake's seat.

Consent

Stand Aside- Eric

Committee Reports

Co-Sound- New moon, Flaming Eggplant, Olympia Food Co-op, and the Builders co-op wrote letters in support for CECOCESOLA in Venezuela. They are planning a larger meeting talking about worker cooperatives and next steps for the committee.

Personnel- talked about accountability. And discussed ideas for the process around an organizational Eval that came from the Board. They continued work on the Staff handbook. There are active internal hiring's for various job descriptions and coordination roles within personnel.

Eco Planning- the staff member on the committee responded, 'the interest is still there, and the motivation is always there. I am very interested in finding out how the Collective feels about this work at this point, and really talk brass tax with them about what commitment this organization has toward investing in Eco work... But really, I feel its the Membership/BOD who I really want to hear from, since this IS a committee of the BOD, not a staff committee.' Eric is interested in pursuing solar options, and is the board member who is serving on the committee.

Expansion- presented the Eastside process proposal and gathered feedback from the collective. The market study was completed; it will be emailed out to the Board for review. The Development co-op will be reviewing the market study and contacting us about further pursuing the feasibility study.

Local – discussed the upcoming 'Local Eats' events on the 13th and 14th of June. There is continued work on the events logistics. They are contacting the Bellingham co-op about their local food program with restaurants. Erin checked in with the committee about Chie attending as the Local farms coordinator. They also worked on the status of local demo position and program.

Standing hiring- has not met

Member Relations- discussed charter and work plan.

Board Staff Relations- met once reviewed charter and foundational documents. They will amend draft based on Board feedback before a more in depth Staff feedback phase.

Finance- The tri annual audit this year, so far so good. The auditors noticed the numerous changes as a result of their recommendations the last time they were here. We are expecting a positive report out of it. Staff organizes the audit but it is completed on behalf of the Board, as per the bylaws

Org eval task force- met with the Big Picture CAT(BPC), they are interested in the idea. Teresa will put ideas on paper and will be meeting with them again. They will be meeting once a month. BPC committed to presenting the idea to the collective in June.

- Fern will sent the draft of board staff relations to Desdra and Eric.

Commitments

- *Max will begin drafting a Advocacy Committee charter*
- *Fern will forward the feedback and requests from the Board concerning the membership database upgrade*
- *Fern will coordinate a meeting of the elections task force with Eric and Desdra*
- *Eric will look at the bylaws and start drafting incentives and possible bylaw changes to allow for online voting*
- *Jayne will contact MRC about attending the board meeting in June to go over the communications and structure.*
- Fern will send the draft of board staff relations to Desdra and Eric.
- 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)

Meeting Eval- Good.

Decisions out of meeting

1. March Minutes approval – via email consent process

Proposal-

The Board of Directors approves the March Meeting Minutes.

Consent

Stand Aside- Isabella, Mohammed El- Sokyary,
Desdra Dawning, Micheal Snow.

Next Meeting

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Initiative I 755
Staff Report
Expansion Review
Committee Reports
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Meeting Eval