

DRAFT MINUTES

FBFC Board of Directors Meeting 6-20-19

Meeting started at 5:33 pm and ended at 8:00 pm.

Board members present: Pauline Heyne (Co-President), Josh O’Conner (Co-President), Bob LeRoy (Treasurer), Adam Bowers (Treasurer-Elect), Kelly Fain, Josh Littlejohn, Ashley See

Board members absent: Jennifer Heeder (Secretary), Danielle Goldstein

Veronica Sotolongo has resigned from the Board.

Others present: Bobby Sullivan, General Manager (GM); Jean Karpen, Board asst.; Owners – Rusty Sivils

Meeting Summary:

- Review of Annual Meeting
- Executive session – Board issues
- GM contract finalized and signed.
- Monitoring Report B1 Financial Condition approved
- Discussion of Committees, Board health, goals

Calendar Dates:

- August Board meeting moved from Aug. 15 to Aug. 22

Approve agenda: Approved as printed

Approve minutes of 5-16-19 approved as presented.

Owner Comments:

Rusty – Attended the presentation by John Steinman, author of “Grocery Story,” on June 18, about how co-ops competing in the age of grocery giants. The book is available in the co-op. Rusty also recommends “Revolutionary Threads...” by our GM Bobby Sullivan. Rusty’s comments led to a discussion of local grocery stores, and comparison of co-ops to larger grocery chains which lack feeling of community.

Annual Meeting review:

- Positives:
 - More organized than previous meetings.
 - More interactive – nice that each Board member presented part of the report.
 - Very nice food spread
 - Loved timed owner comment period – comments were constructive & community-supportive.
 - Great having local food vendors, all of whom have so much love for the co-op.
 - It was a picture of what the co-op is.
- Things to work on:
 - Promotion – need more visuals, fewer words.
 - Need more information from Bobby – too short this year. Bobby as inspirational speaker.
 - Be better prepared for the business of the meeting. Make sure everyone is an owner.
 - Outline which tasks Board and staff are responsible for.
- Bobby will create a document – summary of feedback about annual meeting.
- Ashley will start a 2020 Annual Meeting folder.

Executive Session

GM Contract: Contract was signed.

Monitoring Report: B1 Financial Condition (tabled at May meeting) was approved.

Discussion of Board committees, Board health, goals:

- Bob presented a proposal for parceling out ongoing jobs – like elections, annual meeting, etc. Suggestion to put this item on the July agenda.
- Suggestion to have a document, with Board-critical dates, which will be reviewed at each meeting.
- Set up a governance calendar, merge with Google calendar.
- Need to have the agenda ready one week before the Board meeting.
- Bobby needs a 48-hr window for questions about reports.
- Request to continue to work on having committees. It's a good way for us to expand the work we're doing, engage owners & staff, recruit potential Board members. Two committee ideas from the April meeting were 1) sustainability and reducing use of plastics in the store, and 2) inclusion and outreach.
- Have committees which have built-in committee chairs (for example, Treasurer is Finance chair).
- Some ideas/suggestions have been discussed numerous times (donations to nonprofits) with no action. Could set up a "working group" to carry out some of these ideas.
- Suggestion that we, as a Board, decide on one or two things we want to tackle this year (like donations to nonprofits) and form a group to plan & carry out these ideas.
- Focus on what we have time for and what we can accomplish.
- Consider alternate committee structure – possibly online committee meetings after hours (Hang Outs or other electronic options). May allow more people to participate. If we keep doing things the same way, we'll keep having the same problems.
- Like the idea of defining officer roles with specific duties. Might even go further and assign some specific task to each Board member.
- Suggestion to review Board roles right before Board officer elections, come to agreement about roles, and let task assignments be part of the transition process.
- Continue efforts into transparency. It can be challenging for owners to find information about Board meetings and to know exactly when owner comments are heard. Could put up a poster, post info on Facebook. Bylaw 5.2.3 "Owners shall be notified of BOD meetings in a timely manner by the posting of notices in a conspicuous place at all places of business of the Co-op" We can do more to make meeting info more obvious and encourage participation.
- Idea - Wall-sized calendar for all events.
- Board members are asked to send suggestions to Bobby for posting info on website, suggestions for website changes which may clarify meeting info, etc.
- Idea – announce in the store when Board meetings are about to start.

Additional items for next month's agenda:

- Bob's proposal for Board jobs

Next meeting will be July 18, 2019 at 5:30 pm.

Jean Karpen, Board Assistant