

MINUTES

This meeting was held in person at the Co-op, 7/20/2023

Meeting started at 5:30 pm and ended at 7:20 pm. Executive Session, 7:20 pm- 8:04 pm

Board members present: Christa Hamilton (speakerphone call), Kitty Love, Terra Marshall, Clare Schwartz, Jerome Smith, Andrea Burkins, Lulu Edmonds, Nick Fury

Board members not present: Adam Bowers

Others present: Bobby Sullivan, General Manager (GM); Amy Zimmerman BOD Assistant; Board assistant; Dyllan Simmons (Produce Manager); Owners, Robby Lizotte (Employee)

Meeting Summary:

- Check-ins/Introductions
- 7/20/2023 Agenda, Approved
- 6/15/2023 Minutes, Approved
- Owner Comments
- Monitoring Reports B7 & B8, Approved
- Elections, Meeting date of 11/9/2023, Approved
- Mentoring for the Board, hiring Columinate, Approved
- Agenda amended, Board Development Discussion moved to August, Approved
- Recyclery Report From Bobby Sullivan
- Committee Check-ins

Check In/Introductions

- Bobby Sullivan: The summer slowdown isn't happening this year. Staff got a bonus on this paycheck, so we are sharing the profits as the year progresses rather than waiting until the end of the year.
- Dyllan Simmons: Doing good, sales are doing well.
- Kitty Love: Feeling nervous about Recyclery issue.
- Terra Marshall: Going camping for weekend.
- Lulu Edmonds: Sorry she missed last month's meeting, mom was in the hospital and things are intense right now.
- Clare Schwartz: Has had lots of visitors lately.
- Andrea Burkins: Keeping busy with homelife. Kids, cooking, cleaning.
- Christa Hamilton: Is in New Mexico, going to visit friends, Texas, doing well.

Approve Agenda

- Andrea Burkins moved to approve the July agenda. Motion was seconded by Terra and approved.

Approve Minutes

- Lulu Edmonds moved to approve the minutes of 6/15/2023. Motion was seconded by Terra and approved

Owner Comments

- Robby Lizotte: Asheville is dealing with a lot of addiction and crime. Users can be violent. We are getting a lot of theft, often early in the morning. Robby doesn't want to risk his personal safety. He says he could go to jail if he's involved in an altercation, but a police officer can handle the situation. When he worked at Greenlife, they hired plain-clothed policeman and he suggests doing that at the co-op a few days a week. He thinks that the word on the street will get around and people will realize we are no longer an easy target. Robby discussed the episode when someone threw a cinderblock through the window. He doesn't want to wait until something happens and said some of the staff are nervous; they don't know how to deal with the confrontations that are happening.
- Dyllan Simmons: It feels like there should be a discussion and protocol put into place. A lot of staff are having to deal with this.

Monitoring Reports/GM Reporting

- B7 Communication to the Board, B8 Board Logistical Report
- Andrea moves to approve. Nick Fury seconded and motion was approved.

Board Meal

Board Development

- Moved to August: Discussion of Chapter 13 of the book "Cultivating Food Justice."

Elections

- Clare Schwartz: Kylee, Christa and Clare decided on the beginning of August for the first election meeting. They will form a committee and then assign jobs. Amy sent samples of previous announcements from past elections.
- Christa Hamilton: Meeting in person would be better, rather than zoom.
- Bobby Sullivan: We will need to rent a Venue, Quorum is 50 and the capacity of the co-op meeting room is 40. There was confusion last year about calling it the "annual party" and there were some technical issues. The notice must go out within 30 days of annual meeting with the date, time and agenda.
- Details: "Annual Meeting Party" on November 9th, 2023, in person.
- Terra Marshall motions for Nov. 9th, and 6pm-7:30pm, Clare seconded, and the motion was approved.

Mentoring for the Board

- Budgeting for Columinate, \$7,995/year.
- Andrea Burkins motioned to approve hiring Columinate. Motion was seconded by Clare and approved.

Asheville Recyclery

- Bobby: Had a great meeting with the Recyclery last week, they are great people. We let them know that the social media post was irresponsible, and Matty said they were trying to illicit positive reactions with it. They seemed to all be on different pages with each other. I'm easy to find. It's too bad we couldn't have met before they posted that. We gave them 5 years notice, 2 years notice, and then 7 months notice recently. The space needs a lot of renovation. Insulation on ceiling, concrete slab is damaged, foundation work needed, the bulk room floor will be lowered. Basically it is going to be a sub-basement. They were hoping to move back in, but the space will not be available. Some of the people are sleeping in there. They have accepted that they need to leave.
- Andrea: Do we need to issue a formal statement?
- Bobby: NCG (National Co-op Grocers) advises not to address a formal statement unless it becomes a thing. Right now, put out little fires, and don't comment on the social media.

Committee Check-ins and Miscellaneous Updates

- DEI Committee Meeting, draft a policy. Wednesday, July 26th, Noon, at the co-op. Bobby has a policy template to use as a guide and will do a calendar invite.

Agenda Items Not Covered or Unfinished

- Discussion of Chapter 13 of the book "Cultivating Food Justice"
- Board Member Testimonial Request

Additional Items for Next Month's Agenda

Action Items

- Christa: Add to August agenda, DEI Draft.
- Christa: Add to August agenda: Discussion of Chapter 13 of the book "Cultivating Food Justice"

Next meeting will be 8/17/2023 at 5:30 pm.
Amy Zimmerman, Board Assistant