

MINUTES - August Board Meeting

This meeting was held in person at the Co-op, 8/21/2025

Meeting started at 5:30 PM

Board members present: Terra Marshall (Co-President), John Walker (Treasurer), Laura Ann Edmonds (Secretary), Jerome Smith, Clare Schwartz, Buffy Ford, Tricia Baehr.

Board members not present: Andrea Burkins (Co-President)

Others present: Amy Zimmerman (Board Assistant) (via Zoom), Bobby Sullivan (General Manager).

Meeting Summary:

- Board Check-ins
- Owner Comments
- August Meeting Agenda, approved
- July 2025 Minutes, approved
- GM Report: BI Financial Condition, Approved
- BDS Petition, Approved
- New Petition Policy, Approved
- 50th Anniversary and Annual Meeting Planning
- Election Planning

Board Check-ins

Owner Comments

- Reminder, While we care to hear all feedback from members, during this time we do not respond. We listen, take notes, and will discuss the concerns or feedback we receive here during our private Executive Session. We will get back to members prior to our next scheduled meeting to address what we hear today.

Approve August Agenda

- Tricia motioned to approve, Lulu seconded. Motion approved.

Approve June Minutes

- John motioned to approve, Jerome seconded. Motion approved.

BDS Petition Approval

- Buffy motioned to approve, Terra seconded. Motion approved.
 - Conversation: Investigate potential backlash, check with attorney about BDS laws.

Petition Policy

- Buffy motioned to approve, Tricia seconded. Motion approved.

FYI Report from Bobby Sullivan, General Manager

- We are no longer selling coffee at the Co-op.
- There is a new Deli Manager, Dustin, who has previously run a food service operation and really knows the business. He is making new hires.
- Manager meetings have been happening regularly.
- Bobby shared the financial report that managers receive.
- The Co-op posed on social media for hiring, and we now have more full-time new staff.
- Tourism in Asheville is down and that is affecting sales.
- Parking has been a major focus. Many people are parking without shopping at the Co-op, so we've been placing reminder notes on cars.
- There was a discussion about accessing files in the Board drive. Clare asked if the GM reports can be emailed in advance. Bobby posts the reports in the shared drive's meeting folder one week in advance of the meeting.
- Bobby showed the board how to get into Google Drive and gave some pointers.
- Event News
 - There is an upcoming staff party that the Board is invited to attend. Makayla is organizing it and details are coming soon. There will be events in the store and samples for the 50th Anniversary.
 - Convergence is NCG's conference for co-op promotions liaisons, grocery and wellness staff. It was attended by Jim and Mark in August. The trip was paid for by NCG. They secured a lot of deals there. Travel and lodging was sponsored by NCG.
 - Bobby is attending the National Fall Meeting in September 16-18 in Eagan, Minn. Travel and lodging is sponsored by NCG.
 - Makayla and Dyllan might attend the Operations Conference in October 28-29 in Eagan, Minn. Travel and lodging is sponsored by NCG.

BI Financial Condition Report - Bobby Sullivan, General Manager

- Bobby presented the BI financial report.
- Vote to approve: Tricia motioned to approve, Buffy seconded. Motion approved.

Annual Meeting & 50th Anniversary Party

- Date & Time: Sunday, November 2nd, with brunch suggested around 10:30–11:00 AM. The meeting would run approximately 11 AM–1 PM.
- Venue Options: Clare has reached out to three venues. Possibilities include The Orange Peel, LaZoom, or 67 Biltmore (which is closed on Sundays and could host up to 50 seated and 70 standing).
- Attendance: Quorum is 50, and turnout may be higher since this will be the first in-person meeting in a while.

- Food & Catering: Brunch style was preferred, with finger foods such as frittatas, quiche, and croissants. Catering could be provided by 67 Biltmore.
- Amy will put together a slideshow with a focus on history. Storefront slideshow.
- Tricia, Buffy, and Clare will finalize details and present a proposal to Bobby for approval. Clare will prepare three catering/venue proposals.
- We purchased financial literacy books for some staff. The book explains how to read financial data.

Election Discussion

- It was decided that we do not have an Election Committee.
- The number of open seats remains unanswered.
 - It is still unclear who is re-running for the board. Clare, Lulu and Jerome are considering rerunning but are still undecided.
 - Jamie Carson has resigned from the board.
 - Buffy cycling off board
 - For the 2025 elections, the plan is not to specify how many board members are being sought, but instead to see how many applicants apply.
 - There is a board terms document available for reference.
- Ideally, applicants will introduce themselves at the Annual Meeting, followed by a virtual vote afterward. Sunday, November 2nd.
- Marketing for elections will focus on attracting new board members and encouraging participation by highlighting the opportunity to support the community and apply city planning skills. Applications will be accepted during the month of September, with the campaign to run for the board taking place in October. Elections will be held after November 15th.

Moved to next meeting: Board folder review. Community engagement.

Meeting adjourned: 7:30 PM

Next meeting: In person at the Co-op, 5:30PM, 9/18/2025

Minutes compiled by: Amy Zimmerman, Board Assistant