

MINUTES
Weavers Way Cooperative Association
Fall General Membership Meeting
6:30pm, Sunday, November 9, 2008, North by Northwest

Vice President David Woo called the meeting of the Weavers Way (WW) General Membership meeting to order at 6:30 pm on Sunday, November 9th, 2008, at North by Northwest, 7165 Germantown Ave., Philadelphia PA. David recognized the business that Board and committee members accomplish and thanked North by Northwest for hosting the meeting. Sylvia Gentry advised that the Leadership Committee is seeking members committed to co-op principles to run for the Board in the upcoming spring election. Signup sheets were supplied and questions were directed to Leadership Committee members.

Approval of Minutes from Spring 2008 General Membership Meeting

The minutes of the spring 2008 General Membership Meeting were approved as written.

President's Report

Board President Nancy Weinman reviewed Weavers Way's accomplishments this past year including expanded farm and educational programs. Nancy acknowledged the Weavers Way Community Programs Board for their leadership. The recent audit for the fiscal year ending 6/30/08 confirmed positive finances, especially while larger food chains are having difficulty. Patronage rebates were paid for the third year in a row. The main challenge for the future is expansion. Possible changes to member requirements and shopping privileges are under consideration with the opening of the new store in West Oak Lane.

The Board spent much time reassessing its Ends Policies, strategizing our future vision and assuring that the General Manager (GM) is making progress toward the Ends. Nancy encouraged members to look at the Ends on the website, noting that WW's overriding End is to be a sustainable cooperative enterprise benefiting both the growing membership and wider community. Exploring ways to improve member engagement, the Board is identifying member needs and ways of increasing member participation including the restructuring of committees.

Nancy expressed appreciation for the work of the WW staff, management team and GM, as well as the WW Board in their efforts to represent members. Special thanks to the presidents she succeeds, Bob Noble and Stu Katz, to committee chairs, and to the Leadership Committee for their work recruiting new Board members. She asked members to consider running for the Board, for a great sense of gratification, community, and engagement.

General Manager's Report

Glenn Bergman reported that we had a 3.6% return last year and \$7.7 million in sales. Renovations are continuing at 555 Carpenter Lane, our new location for membership and

administrative offices. He asked members to donate to WWCP from the \$190,000 year-end patronage rebate. Currently management is looking at new ways to promote the Ogontz store. We are doing one-fifth of what we expected in sales; we need \$500,000 in sales per year and 300 members. An old 3200 sq ft garage was purchased at 542 Carpenter Lane which requires member input to determine its use.

The Environment Committee is researching a community bike program and other types of recycling. The Education Committee will start a new speaker series January 14, 2009. The Farm Committee hosted a successful Harvest Festival. WWCP has educated 2000 students at our Awbury Farm. The Membership Committee is examining work requirements and researching other co-ops.

Weavers Way Community Programs (WWCP)

WWCP Executive Director Rachel Milenbach reported they are up to capacity for schools and have started work with the Environment Committee. The board is currently in the midst of strategic planning. Slides were presented showing activities and accomplishments. A new Community Supported Urban Agriculture program is being considered.

Mark Alan Hughes

Stu Katz introduced the featured speaker, Mark Alan Hughes, Director of Sustainability for the City of Philadelphia, who is leading the effort to make Philadelphia the greenest city in America by 2015. According to www.sustainlane.com, Philadelphia is currently number eight. He defined sustainability as meeting present needs without compromising future generations. He remarked on the 10-year electric rate cap that will expire December 31, 2010. Price increase estimates range from 17-35%. The City needs to develop strategic structures such as an energy co-op. Mr. Hughes touched on various aspects of sustainability including compost toilets in the city, walking distance accessibility, electric rail incentives, hybrid taxis, surcharges for driving into the city, separating organic waste from non-organic waste, a larger Dept. of Environment, commercial recycling, and white roofs. Mr. Hughes suggested the Sustainable Business Network would help identify some of the sources for start-up money for green business as well www.e3bank.com, the nation's first triple bottom-line bank. Finally, population participation is needed—like what NYC is doing to meet the goal of planting one million trees.

Meeting adjourned 8:30pm.