

MINUTES

Weavers Way Cooperative Association Board of Directors, 7/10/12

Attendance: Megan Seitz Clinton, Stu Katz, Nathea Lee, Margaret Lenzi, Jonna Naylor, Bob Noble, Linda Shein, Jeremy Thomas, Dave Tukey, Sue Wasserkrug, David Woo

Absent: None

Staff present: Glenn Bergman, Karen Plourde (minutes)

The meeting began at 7:00 p.m.

Agenda Review

No changes were made to the agenda.

Approve Minutes of June 2012 Board Meeting

It was noted that the Board budget is missing and needs to be attached to the minutes. Also, Jeremy requested that he be identified by name on page 3.

Board Action: The minutes of the June 2012 board meeting were unanimously approved as amended.

Calendar

Margaret suggested that we transition from our highly detailed many-paged calendar to a one-page synopsis that gives a quicker view of the year. She suggested that the more detailed calendar be used to plan the monthly agenda and that it be available new board members for informational purposes. Putting both versions of the calendar into a DropBox account would also be useful. Glenn will have a DropBox set up for the board.

There is no meeting in August but Glenn offered a special voluntary meeting on finances, to review the budget for the upcoming year, for board members who might want to see financials and discuss with finance officers & answer our questions. Glenn will send a Doodle poll to pick a date, probably in late August.

September meeting will be moved to the second Tuesday because of Labor Day. Karen will ensure that the change is posted.

Nathea will write the September Shuttle column (due August 1), and Megan will do October (due Sept 1).

Reports

There was no discussion about the two reports submitted to the board - one regarding the membership work cycle and one from the Education Committee.

Board Action: The membership work cycle report and the Education Committee report were accepted as submitted.

CGIN (Cooperative Grocers Information Network) Listserv

Margaret explained this discussion listserv and indicated that she will add the new board members to it. Stu explained that there is more info available through CGIN, beyond the listserv.

Board Process

Margaret led a discussion of how to make board meetings most effective. The board brainstormed in the areas of expectations and “do’s” and “don’ts”. Common themes included: the desire for meetings to last no more than two to two-and-a-half hours; the expectation that board members come to meetings prepared, and that we engage in civil discussion.

Board Action: The board decided to have a timekeeper, which will rotate for each meeting, who will alert the board when the allotted time for a topic has ended.

Board Education: what we learned from CCMA (Consumer Cooperative Management Association)

The board packet contained a compilation of what folks learned at the CCMA workshops. In addition to suggestions in the packet, another suggestion was to have representatives from different types of co-ops give presentations at board meetings as part of board education. Other board education suggestions included: rules of order and other best practices of process; food justice; board member recruitment/orientation/training/development (will be referred to leadership committee); ends reporting; having a social gathering with other local food co-ops; strategic conversations; and board education conversations.

Board Action: We decided to use the 6:30-7:00 dinner time to share or “check in.” Jeremy will follow up on a multi-coop gathering (of Philly food co-ops). Megan will join the Board Education committee; Margaret will convene a meeting of that committee.

Board Administration

- Board reimbursement procedures: Stu explained the form in the packet that we should use for reimbursement for relevant board expenses (such as travel to co-op events).
- Establish a committee to implement new by-law Article VII on Committees, i.e. for us to develop clear policies for committees: Glenn will assign some staff on this committee. David Woo will also serve. The committee will report in November.
- Establish an expanded committee for Spring General Membership Meeting (GMM) now (rather than waiting until the fall) because of the upcoming 40th Anniversary of Weavers Way.

Jeremy, Megan, Linda, Nathea and Sue will be on the committee. Chair TBD at first meeting. Glenn will convene first meeting with staff.

- Report from the Fall GMM committee: Speaker will be a panel of representatives from various types of co-ops in Philadelphia. Location TBD, in Chestnut Hill; date is October 28.
- Replacing board member who resigned in May: We can, but do not have to because we are not under nine members - which is the number at which we would be required to replace the resigned member.

Board Action: The Board approved tentative Fall GMM agenda, including the date. (Approved tentative agenda is attached to these minutes.)

Board Action: The Board decided not to replace the resigned board member.

Self-Monitoring of Policy G1, Governing Methods

Based on the survey results, the issue of reporting our self-evaluation to the general co-op membership was the only area that appeared to be minimally acceptable. Perhaps we should look at how other boards report to members. Dave Tukey will query the CGIN list on the topic of board self-evaluation as well as transparency. David Woo will lead the discussion of G2 in September.

Member Engagement

Margaret distributed an updated membership report. She explained that the report was being distributed because of the importance of membership to the board.

Active membership numbers have been very stable from last year to this year. Some of this is a result of cleaning up the database. Sales to members was identical (from last year to this year) in terms of percent of total sales, but it increased in absolute terms (i.e., dollars) by 7.6%. Since the Chestnut Hill store opened, we gained approximately 1,300 member households.

Announcements

- The film “Fixing the Future” will be shown on July 19. Information is available on the PACA (Phila Area Co-op Alliance) website: philadelphia.coop.
- Bob noted that this is his last year on both the WW and the WWCP (WW Community Programs) boards. He suggested we think about having a WW board member run for WWCP board.
- MAFCA (Mid-Atlantic Food Co-op Alliance) meeting is this Sunday (July 15) at Mariposa.
- Dave Tukey will plan a time for board members to review key co-op documents.
- Stu is working with the Creekside Board. They are looking to open in the fall.
- David Woo is doing a WW orientation tomorrow night.
- At CCMA, Glenn met some folks from Alaska who are trying to open a co-op. He saw them and also with members of a Seafood Producers Coop when he traveled to Alaska recently.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

WEAVERS WAY FALL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
Sunday, October 28, 2012
Location: TBD - Somewhere in Chestnut Hill

DRAFT AGENDA

EAT & GREET 5:30- 6:00

- Food and beverages provided

BUSINESS MEETING 6:00-6:30

- Approval of Spring 2012 General Membership Minutes
- President's Report
- General Manager's Report
- Financial Report

FEATURED PRESENTATION 6:30- 7:30

Co-ops on the Rise in Philly- A Panel Discussion with Cross-Sector Co-ops

- Moderated by Phila Area Cooperative Alliance (PACA)- maybe Bob Noble
- Representatives from Home Health Care Associates, Pa Energy Cooperative, Childspace (we may substitute a credit union, housing, or art co-op- depending on availability)
- Will talk about their worker and consumer co-ops, what makes them different, and the prospects for growth

CAKE & CONVERSATION 7:30- 8:00

- Question & Answer Session with General Manager