

MINUTES

Weavers Way Cooperative Association Board of Directors, 9/11/12

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: Jonna Naylor, Dave Tukey

Staff present: Glenn Bergman, Karen Plourde, Stacy Robinson (Chestnut Hill produce department and strategic planning committee)

Guests: Lindsey Bingaman from Teleos, Fran Johnston from Teleos, Mira Rabin (WWCP)

The meeting began at 7:00 p.m.

Agenda Review

No changes were made to the agenda. Bob requested a future agenda item: whether staff should be required to be members. Unanimously accepted as presented. David Woo was named as timekeeper for tonight's meeting.

Approve Minutes of July 2012 Board Meeting

It was clarified that the Tentative Fall General Membership Meeting (GMM) agenda needs to be attached to the July minutes when posted.

Board Action: The minutes of the July 2012 board meeting were unanimously approved as clarified (i.e., with GMM agenda attached).

Approve Minutes of Spring 2012 GMM

No changes were offered.

Board Action: The draft minutes of the Spring 2012 GMM were unanimously approved for submission to the membership at the Fall 2012 GMM.

Calendar Review

Margaret pointed out some Board Education items. David Woo will write November Shuttle article, due October 1, and Stu will write December article, due November 1. Coming up in October: audit review & patronage rebate, and preliminary GM review. Nathea will facilitate self-monitoring discussion in October. Margaret will investigate when we need to make a decision about the auditor contract. Using Dropbox or Google for a board email group and for various board documents has been delayed because of demands on staff during Mt Airy store renovations. Some committee reporting dates were clarified.

Board financial training has been set for October 6. If people have questions about audit before the October meeting, they can call Stu.

Reports

There was no discussion about the two reports submitted to the board - GM report and a report from the Board Education Committee.

Board Action: The GM report and Board Education Committee report were accepted as submitted.

Strategic Planning

Margaret introduced Lindsey, Stacy & Fran, who will lead a discussion about strategic planning, aka, “end to end” planning.

Lindsey gave an overview of the process, which includes four stages: inquire, engage, decide, and enroll. She said we’ve just entered the first phase, getting input from stakeholders, and researching national trends & local community plans. There are two documents at heart of this work: WW Ends & the Seven Cooperative Principles.

Stacy talked about the role of the board. Our involvement will start with phase 1. There will be four member events, and the committee wants board to table the events along with committee members. According to the Strategic Planning Process Map, during Phase 1, the board will be interviewed individually about focusing & visioning and during Phase 2, the Strategic Committee will check in with board three times, on the development of the Strategic Plan. Stacy distributed an article about policy governance board involvement in strategic planning process. Fran indicated that the committee also includes members of management team.

Board Education: Weavers Way Community Programs (WWCP)

Margaret introduced Mira Rabin, president of WWCP Board, who will discuss WWCP and its relationship with WW.

Mira has been member of WW since 1978 & was on the board. She first came to WWCP as a funder for school marketplace program & eventually joined board.

WWCP started in 2007 to implement co-op principle #7 regarding community. Creating a nonprofit was the next step to expand programs such as farm, and to fundraise. Core programs are still school marketplace and farm education.

The goal of the school marketplace program is to replicate the co-op business model in local schools via “healthy snack sale.” Kids learn about business, nutrition, co-ops, food justice. “Profits” go to charity of kids’ choice, which can be their school or something else. The program was scaled back last year for various reasons.

Farm education has 3 parts: Mort Brooks farm, the farm at Saul, & the garden at Stenton Family Manor (city-run family homeless shelter). At Mort Brooks & Saul, unlike at Stenton, outside groups come in - mostly but not all children.

Currently WWCP is scrambling for funding, mainly because of recession-related cutback in giving. Mira said that if 20% of WW members either gave patronage rebate, donated to the

WWCP annual appeal, and/or participated in the High-five program, WWCP would just about meet budget.

Regarding vision & mission: the activities are very education-oriented. Project outcomes generally have to do with access to healthy food choices, nutrition literacy, etc.

WWCP would like us to keep them in mind when envisioning our ends and when WW develops a Strategic Plan. How can we as WW board help WWCP more than we have? We decided to form a joint committee with WW & WWCP board members to explore the relationship between WW & WWCP. Stu, Sue, Jeremy (chair) & Linda volunteered to represent WW.

GM Monitoring Reports: L1 Financial Conditions

Everyone read the report & came prepared to discuss it. Operational definitions were deemed to be reasonable. Data was deemed adequate to determine compliance or accomplishment with policy. Data was deemed to demonstrate compliance with policy.

Board Action: The Board accepted L1 report.

GM Monitoring Reports: L2 Asset Protection

Everyone read report & came prepared to discuss it. Operational definitions were deemed to be reasonable. Data was deemed adequate to determine compliance or accomplishment with policy. Data was deemed to demonstrate compliance with policy.

Board Action: The Board accepted L2 report.

Self-Monitoring of Policy G2, Board Job Description

Nine replies are reflected in report. There was some discussion about member/potential member input and member/potential member education, which will be referred to Member Engagement committee.

Nathea will lead the self-monitoring discussion in October.

Mt. Airy Renovations Report

We hit a home run! Members overall are pleased - there has been lots of positive feedback. Staff enjoys the new store too. Everything went smoothly. Board will hold a celebration for staff. Stu, David Woo, and Jonna volunteered to help plan the Staff Appreciation Party.

Announcements

- On Nov 10 - PACA (Philadelphia Area Co-op Alliance) is having a visioning meeting on the cooperative movement in Philadelphia.
- Bob & Margaret went to a board meeting at Swarthmore; it was very interesting.
- There should be an Inquirer article tomorrow about WW.
- Creekside is finishing construction; should be open in fall.
- Merchandising marketing director has been hired.

- Glenn is going to National Cooperative Grocers Association convention next week & will be joining the board of NCGA.
- Nathea & Beau met to discuss food justice: how to address issue; how to educate board.
- Stu encouraged everyone to read the article from Michael Healy about the study on the impact of food co-ops on communities.
- Board thanked Glenn for pulling off the renovation.

Evaluation

The visitors were appreciated. Shortness of meeting was appreciated.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.