

The General Meeting Minutes of the  
Common Ground Food Co-op Board  
Urbana-Champaign  
March 10, 2008

This meeting of the CGFC Board was held in the Illinois Disciples Foundation on Monday, March 10, 2008 at 5:30 PM.

Board members present: Katrina Bromann, Clint Popetz, Richard Antisdell, Ben Galewsky, Lisa Bralts-Kelly, Tim McHenry

Others present: Jacqueline Hannah (GM)

### **Agenda Amendments**

We agreed that if discussion of the relocation financing deadline announcement took too long, we would detract time from the policy review at the end.

### **Relocation Financing Deadline Announcement**

One co-op member queried the board, “What do we do if we do not raise all the funds needed for the move by the deadline?” Jacqueline attended the meeting to present to the board her plan for the scenario in which we do not raise all member loans by March 31<sup>st</sup>. The solution will be to go ahead with the relocation but put the café/deli on hold temporarily, with a second fundraising effort in order to open it in 2009.

Also, for the first time, the IDF is allowing us to release the information that they are not looking for any new leases after summer 2008. Both of these imperatives—to raise enough money to fund the full move (including café/deli) and to move out of our current space on time—will be conveyed to the membership through an email that will come from the board. The board will work with Jacqueline to compose this email in the upcoming week. We will also put cut sheets in the store with details outlining why we need the money and what happens if we don’t get it.

### **Relocation Update**

Ben let the board know that we have raised \$157,000 in loans thus far. Clint told us that we are under budget after meetings with the general contractors, but we will have our first full bid next week. The lease is just waiting on a final agreement on an option on the space next to our store.

### **Equity Update**

We have had very few negative reactions to the raise in equity, and we have already raised thousands in equity since people have begun paying increase.

### **Spring GMM Planning**

The GMM is planned for April 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. It is a dessert potluck, and we’ll make do without a sign-up. The agenda will include relocation news, introduction of board candidates, and a simple financial report. There will be a blog entry to announce the GMM, as well as prominent signage in the store. The agenda should be available in the store. Richard is in charge of contacting JQ and the staff and getting the GMM ready.

### **Board Election Planning**

Katrina will work on putting together a packet of information to hand the new board member, including bylaws, policies, articles of incorporation, and a brief history of the board. Clint and/or Richard will help with the history portion. Lisa will concentrate on recruitment by contacting potential board members,

blogging, and soliciting candidates in the Bytes. Applications should be available in the store by next week.

### **Self Monitoring**

We found ourselves in compliance with GP #2c Chief Governance Officer and GP #2d Board Secretary review. We discovered the need for a policy in this section that covers the signing of documents; a draft of such policy would create the position of treasurer with the sole responsibility of signing documents, as well as amending the secretary's responsibilities to include signing documents.

### **Blog Assignments**

3/14—Clint on responses to the relocation financing deadline email

3/21—Lisa on elections

3/28—Tim on fundraising last-minute-omg

4/4—Ben on fundraising congratulations

4/11—Richard on the GMM

### **Policy Review: Local vs. Organic, The Co-op as “Gatekeeper”**

We currently have no existing policy on signage, education, product selection or promotion on the issue of local vs. organic in the store. We need an ends policy that lays out what we hope to achieve in the local and organic movements. We need an executive limitations policy that sets minimum requirements on the GM with regard to identification of food origin and farming practices, as well as any minimum requirements on product selection.

For certification, we would like to see a “good faith” checklist, which each farmer would fill out in order to determine specific farming practices without visiting each farm (we do not have the manpower to check each supplier). We would also like to see detailed and distinctive labeling in the store.

Richard will draft an ends policy that sets forth the goal of promoting/encouraging sustainable farming practices.

Clint will draft content for an executive limitations policy that covers the relationship with producers, including the idea of a “good faith” agreement. An example of this would be to prevent reselling of produce.

Ben will draft content for an executive limitations policy that covers product selection. This includes the idea of only including a certain percentage of conventionally grown produce.

Tim will draft content for an executive limitations policy that covers labeling the produce.

**The next scheduled CGFC Board meeting will be held April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at 5:30 PM at the IDF. Clint sent us a document titled “Setting a Process for General Manager Compensation”—Don't forget to read it for next time!**

Respectfully submitted,  
Katrina A. Bromann  
Common Ground Food Co-op Secretary