

The General Meeting Minutes of the  
Common Ground Food Co-op Board  
Urbana-Champaign  
August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2008

This meeting of the Common Ground Food Co-op Board of Directors was held at the IDF on Monday, July 14th, 2008 at 5:30 PM.

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

Board members absent: Tim McHenry

**\*\*Important dates from this meeting: GMM—10/5/08; Board Retreat—11/9/08\*\***

### **Agenda Amendments**

No agenda amendments.

### **Relocation Update**

Clint gave an update on the relocation, which is (thankfully, and due to a lot of hard work) progressing on schedule. There was a small bug in the pro forma, but the lenders have reviewed it and made their own version, which matched ours, so it should work itself out and not be an issue. Staffing is adequate for the new store.

### **Blogging Assignments**

Clint will blog on 8/15. From now on we will produce blog entries in a new fashion: instead of signing up for certain weeks, Clint will send out an email early in the week and ask for someone to do one for that week—thus assessing availability at the time and not guessing beforehand whether or not you'll be able to write one later on. You can also spontaneously post blog entries—anything from two paragraphs to longer is welcome. Keep in mind that with the opening of the new store, there will be lots of new members reading our blog entries, so entries can be directed at curious newcomers who may not be sure what questions to ask. Here is a list of possible topics:

- \*Why would someone want to run for the board
- \*Deli
- \*Policies that we've been writing/revising
- \*Growing pains/Smart growth
- \*New location/Community/Campus to Urbana
- \*Benefits of being a member—break into social and financial
- \*New to Common Ground? Here's some info...

### **Relocation Opening Day Board Presence**

Friday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 5-8 PM: Clint, Tim, and Katrina (as soon as she can get there, probably around 6 PM)

Saturday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 8-8: Ben in the morning, Lisa after 4 PM, Richard between 8 and 4, Clint all day, Katrina in the morning and late afternoon, Tim ??

## **Board Calendar**

We are required to reincorporate in the next twelve months.

We will have two GMMs this coming year, and after that we will switch to one per year. The two for this year will be in October 2008 and April 2009.

We should be having 45-60 minute discussions on issues or topics that are of long-term interest to the co-op. We should begin envisioning what it means to be leaders of our co-op when there is no more relocation—what are the major points to focus our attention on? We brainstormed these ideas:

- \*Bylaws

- \*Board education on finances/financial control

- \*Membership growth/shifting demographics

- \*Community outreach

- \*Relationship to other organizations/linking with smaller, loosely organized groups

- \*How to manage food information/how to deal with food as a hot topic, or if it loses steam

Related notes: We will be using CDS to facilitate our annual retreat. Therefore, we are going to include CDS on all our emails henceforth, so that they can do a better job of consulting with us. We will also conference call with them on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month; Clint will email them the agenda for the following Monday meeting so there is something to go over. They will be able to access the board-only parts of the website.

## **GMM/Election Planning**

The GMM will be on Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup>. This coincides with the weekend of the Grand Opening of the store. The location is TBD; Lisa is looking into City Hall, while Ben looks into the library.

Katrina is going to update the board election materials, send for approval, and get in the store by August 22<sup>nd</sup>. Applications are due by Wednesday, October 1<sup>st</sup>. Lisa will work with Meagan on publicity for the meeting.

We are considering holding a “Meet the Candidates” forum on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, or 5<sup>th</sup> (same weekend as Grand Opening and GMM). This could be in conjunction with a “Why I Like Being on the Board” panel comprising current board members. Candidates would be asked to be present in the store to answer why they are interested in running and to describe their vision for the co-op.

## **Board Recruitment**

We named names of people we'd like to see consider running for the board; we will contact them individually to assess their interest and nudge them in the right direction. Keep asking and recruiting!

## **Board Retreat Planning**

The annual Board retreat will be on Sunday, November 9<sup>th</sup>. It lasts all day, and it will be catered.

### **Local Food Infrastructure Ends Policy Discussion**

The question of whether local food infrastructure could be incorporated into Ends #2b or could stand alone as its own End came down to one objection: was it already covered to the extent it needed to be covered in #2b? During our discussion, we came to the conclusion that the existing Ends #2b was not in fact an End of our store, and thus should be mostly scrapped and rewritten to reflect the focus on local food infrastructure. As a result, we made a small change to the Global Ends policy and wrote a new Ends #2b. Policies are written below.

**Global Ends Policy:** The aim of the Common Ground Food Co-op is to be a financially strong, cooperative grocery store that is an asset of the entire community. *Replaced “member-owned” with “cooperative” to retain the idea of cooperative commerce from the old Ends #2b.*

**Ends #2b:** Common Ground Food Co-op will strengthen our regional food network by promoting products from and developing relationships with local independent producers and by providing resources to those interested in becoming producers. *Written to reflect goals with regards to regional food network. No longer sets out Ends with regards to good jobs or economy.*

**The next scheduled CGFC Board meeting will be held September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at 5:30 PM, location TBD. Keep an eye on your email inbox. Food always welcome.**

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