

The General Membership Meeting (GMM)
Minutes of the Common Ground Food Co-op
Urbana-Champaign
April 20, 2008

This meeting of the Common Ground Food Co-op General Membership was held in the Illinois Disciples Foundation on Sunday, April 20, 2008 at 6:30 PM.

Board Chair Clint Popetz welcomed everyone to the biannual spring 2008 GMM.

General Manager Jacqueline Hannah gave an update on general store operations.

Outreach Coordinator Meagan Luhrs gave an update on the “new store look.” Highlights include new freezer, coolers, and shelving, a drop ceiling, hanging lights, power doors, and partially recycled wood checkout counters. The store will be decorated with photographs of local farms and farmers. The goal is to make it warm, friendly, and accessible.

Jacqueline went on to offer several other relocation updates:

- Tim Gibbs, a former board member and long-time member of the co-op has been named as the General Contractor for our relocation.
- The projected date for opening in the new store is August 1st- August 15th.
- Hours in the new store will be 8 am to 8 pm. (Woohoo!)
- We will be tripling our produce section, therefore offering the largest selection on natural and organic produce in Champaign-Urbana.
- We will be hiring a new deli manager to work on providing co-op cooked treats made with mostly local ingredients.

Clint jumped in with an update on financing for the relocation. We did an amazing job with our member loans and donations. Unfortunately, we are facing difficulties securing outside financing, due to several factors beyond our control, including the general poor state of the global credit economy. Money we had counted on from the county is no longer available. On the bright side, we have been engaging in talks with the Community Development Corporation, and hope to secure a loan soon. Cross your fingers!

In the upcoming month we are going to focus on the membership drive. A co-op member is heading up a new outreach committee, and we hope to sign up many more new members.

Other exciting events include the plant sale on May 10th. We hope this year will be the biggest and best yet—we already have many pledges from people to grow plants for the sale.

Thanks to everyone who brought a dessert to the meeting!

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