

Common Ground Food Co-op
 Board Meeting Minutes
 August 15, 2022
 6:15 pm to 8:15 pm
 Google Videoconference

Present: Jon Barnes, Ben Galewsky, JP Goguen, Andrew Muller, Robert Taylor, Calvin Wang

Absent: Ming Kuo, Madeleine Wolske

Others Present: Gary Taylor, General Manager
 Tony Alongi, National Coop Grocers (NCG)
 Sarah Buckman, Marketing Manager
 Sandy Budde, Board Candidate
 Jeffrey Chandler, Minute Taker

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Proceedings | |
| Meeting called to order | At 6:17 pm by JP Goguen |
| 1. Preliminaries | <p>A. Guests/Owners Gary Taylor, General Manager Tony Alongi, National Coop Grocers (NCG) Sarah Buckman, Marketing Manager Sandy Budde, Board Candidate Jeffrey Chandler, Minute Taker</p> <p>B. Public Comment None.</p> <p>C. Agenda Amendments None.</p> |
| 2. Board Study | <p>A. Food Affordability Robert Taylor introduced Tony Alongi from NCG. He noted he would be back later in the fall to discuss NCG, but for this meeting her prepared a presentation on inflation and food affordability. Tony provided an overview of NCG and the benefits of the nationwide voluntary membership.</p> <p>Tony reviewed recent historical food pricing trends as well as providing industry expectations for areas of future inflation. He further detailed how inflation is affecting the coop industry in comparison to other large grocery retailers.</p> |

| | |
|--|--|
| | <p>He offered suggestions for the coop to thrive during this time notably relying on NCG services, educating and communicating with clientele, ensure strong pricing systems, loyalty programs, low-income programs, value messaging, and a hybrid product strategy. The presentation concluded with a discussion with the board.</p> |
| 3. Consent Agenda | <p>A. Public/Private Minutes from July Meeting B. Treasurer’s Report</p> <p>Action Taken The board unanimously accepted the Consent Agenda as a whole.</p> |
| 4. Monthly Operations Report and Financials | <p>A. Monthly Operations Report & Financials Gary reviewed highlights of the report.</p> |
| 5. GM Monitoring | <p>A. B1 – Financial Conditions and Activities Gary Taylor indicated this report reflects non-compliance. Gary reviewed the sales figures which did not hit the goal and provide some contributing factors. Ben Galewsky asked about the strategy to bring in conventional items, Gary explained they may order a few pallets, but essentially the freight cost is not viable. Gary also reviewed some of the cutbacks he is making to product offerings, as well as labor costs through attrition and reassignment.</p> <p>Action Taken The board unanimously accepted the report with acknowledgement of non-compliance.</p> |
| 6. Internal Monitoring | None |
| 7. Board Election Planning | Robert Taylor reported that board applications closed yesterday, and they received four applicants for four open positions. Slate to be announced September 1 st . |
| 8. MOO Planning | JP Goguen led a discussion regarding planning for the MOO. The board discussed whether to have the MOO in-person or virtually. It was noted cases of COVID are rising, so virtual is probably the safest option. MOO topics were discussed including the recent owner loan payoff, COVID, supply chain issues, inflation, and other store |

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| | topics as presented by JP and Gary. The MOO is schedule for September 29 th 6:00pm-7:30pm. |
| 9. Board Admin | <p>A. Draft 2023 Board Budget Calvin Wang clarified the budget is up for discussion this evening but will be voted on in the September meeting. Calvin reviewed the budget line items and noted comparisons to previous years. Calvin will continue to solicit feedback via email prior to September's meeting.</p> <p>B. Plan 2023 Board Retreat The board is tentatively looking at the weekend of October 15-16 or 22-23, pending Todd Wallace's availability.</p> <p>C. Review 2023 Board Calendar Ben will continue to review the calendar with Gary.</p> |
| EXECUTIVE SESSION OPENS | |
| EXECUTIVE SESSION CLOSES | |
| 10. Closing | <p>A. Next meeting September 12th, 2022</p> <p>B. Outreach Calendar Assignments September Newsletter: Andrew to review Tony Alongi's presentation</p> <p>C. Other Assignments</p> <p>D. Check-out Board Bits: Jon Barnes to touch base with Ming to complete this task.</p> |
| Adjourned | At 8:47pm by JP Goguen |