

Common Ground Food Co-op  
 Board Meeting Minutes  
 October 9, 2023  
 6:15 pm to 8:15 pm  
 Common Ground Food Co-op Classroom/Google Videoconference

Present: Jon Barnes, Blake Hackler, Mickey Parson, Morgan Montgomery, Andrew Muller, Robert Taylor, Calvin Wang

Absent: Sandy Budde

Others Present: Gary Taylor, General Manager  
 Joanna Mierek, Operations Manager  
 Todd Wallace, Board of Directors/Consultant, Columinate  
 Matt Shilts, Owner  
 Jeffrey Chandler, Minute Taker

Proceedings	
Meeting called to order	At 6:23 pm by Robert Taylor
1. Preliminaries	<p><b>A. Guests/Owners</b>            Gary Taylor, General Manager            Joanna Mierek, Operations Manager            Todd Wallace, Director/Consultant, Columinate            Matt Shilts, Owner            Jeffrey Chandler, Minute Taker</p> <p><b>B. Public Comment</b>            None.</p> <p><b>C. Agenda Amendments</b></p>
2. Board Study	<p><b>A. Welcome New Board Member</b>            Welcome to new board member, Mickey Parson, and re-elected board member, Andrew Muller now beginning three-year terms.</p> <p><b>B. Retreat Planning with Todd Wallace</b>            Todd Wallace led an activity to determine everyone's desired outcomes from the upcoming retreat. Robert Taylor offered that he would like to</p>

	<p>see a plan for continued board development and a solid agenda. Andrew Muller would like to leave the retreat with firm goals for the next year. Calvin Wang would like to get to know other board members’ passions and community interests. Black Hackler is interested in committee assignments moving into the new year. Morgan Montgomery would like to learn ways to continue the momentum from the board retreat throughout the year and to continue to learn about the skills and talents all board members bring to the table. Mickey Parson would like to set goals with realistic expectations and timelines and ways to keep everyone on track. Jon Barnes is also interested in learning ways to keep momentum up and how the board can help with the store, the staff, and the future. Gary Taylor would like to continue to foster the close-knit relationships between the board and GM through clear and honest discussion. Todd will take the feedback provided to develop an agenda for the upcoming retreat.</p> <p><b>C. Officer Nomination Process</b> Nominations should be sent to Todd, wherein Todd will confirm nominee interest. The board plans to send nominations by October 22<sup>nd</sup> to elect officers at the retreat which will then be confirmed at the November board meeting.</p>
<p><b>3. Consent Agenda</b></p>	<p><b>A. September Meeting Minutes</b> <b>B. September Treasurer’s Report</b></p> <p><b>Action Taken</b> The board unanimously approved the consent agenda as presented.</p>
<p><b>4. Monthly Operations Report and Financials</b></p>	<p><b>A. Monthly Operations Report &amp; Financials</b> Joanne Mierek advised there were impacts from COVID on the staff over the past month, in</p>

	<p>addition to more vacations than usual. She reported the Co-op won local People’s Choice awards include best vegetarian grocery and prepared foods. She reviewed other highlights from the report. Gary Taylor detailed his negotiations for a new phone system.</p>
<p><b>5. GM Monitoring</b></p>	<p>None</p>
<p><b>6. Internal Monitoring</b></p>	<p><b>A. Board Process C1 Governing Style</b>  Morgan asked where the governing roles were detailed. There was discussion about different policies that detail this, but agreement that a reference to those other sections might be helpful within this policy. The board to discuss more fully at the upcoming retreat.</p> <p><b>B. Board Process C5 Code of Conduct</b>  It was discovered that there may be discrepancies between versions of the policies available. Updated versions of the policies will be provided.</p> <p><b>C. Annual Conflict of Interest Disclosures</b>  Board members will also send electronic written confirmation of the following conflicts of interest:</p> <p>Robert Taylor disclosed that he holds an executive position with a company who supplies pallets for the co-op, though he has no direct connection to that division of the company.</p> <p>Blake Hackler works with the Land Connection, which is a round up for good recipient.</p> <p>Mickey Parson reported no conflicts of interest, though he used to consult for and was employed by the Co-op.</p> <p>Andrew Muller reported no conflicts.</p>

	<p>Calvin Wang’s wife was formerly employed by The Crisis Nursery, a round-up for good organization, and Curtis Orchard.</p> <p>Jon Barnes noted he is a current Co-op employee.</p> <p>Morgan Montgomery advised she volunteers for Eastern Illinois Food Bank which is a round up for good recipient.</p> <p><b>D. Approve Columinate Contract</b></p> <p><b>Action Taken</b> The board unanimously approved the Columinate contract.</p>
<p><b>7. Committee Updates</b></p>	<p><b>A. Owner Outreach</b> Robert gave congratulations to the committee, board, and staff for a great MOO.</p> <p><b>B. Board Development</b> No report.</p> <p>Matt Shilts was excused prior to executive session.</p>
<p><b>Executive Session Opens</b></p>	
<p><b>Executive Session Closes</b></p>	
<p><b>Closing</b></p>	<p><b>A. Next meeting November 13th, 2023</b></p> <p><b>B. November Newsletter:</b> Robert to write about his trip to Japan and comparisons between their local food industry and ours.</p> <p><b>C. Other Tasks and Assignments</b></p> <p><b>D. Check-out</b></p> <p><b>E. Board Bits:</b> Welcoming new board members, upcoming board retreat.</p>

**Adjourned**

**At 7:45 pm by Robert Taylor**