
MINUTES
Common Ground Food Co-op
Board Meeting
5:30pm-7:30pm Central Time
September 15, 2025

Call to Order

Montgomery called the meeting to order at 5:33pm.

Wang, Montgomery, Muller, Andresen, Cronin, Barnes, Parson, Coleman, and Aarestad were the voting members in attendance. Taylor was in attendance as an ex officio guest of the Board.

Officers of the board as of the beginning of this meeting are Montgomery (President), Parson (Vice President), Coleman (Secretary), Muller (Treasurer).

Due to elections held from September 3-10, Jon Barnes and David Aarestad serve the last meeting of their board terms today. Mollie Hari and Maggie Etienne as newly elected board members will serve the first meeting of their board terms on October 20, 2025. Morgan Montgomery was re-elected and will serve the first meeting of her new term on October 20, 2025.

The agenda was amended to remove the January class options and EL B1. Officer elections and July Treasurer's report were added.

Guests/Owners

There were none.

Public Comment

There were none.

President Election for 2026

Ahead of this call Wang sent an email to the Board requesting that the President be elected for the 2026 Board term this evening to help with continuity.

Motion. Wang moved and Aarestad seconded the motion to move the President election from the October Board meeting to tonight's Board meeting. Motion approved.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Motion. Aarestad moved and Cronin seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda as written. Motion approved.

Monthly Operations Report and Financials

Overview

Taylor reviewed the MORE and financial reports previously made available to the Board. He reported that sales are up and staff received Radish Rewards last month. The relationship with the former accounting firm has officially been severed.

Taylor discussed the staff survey that will be sent out soon. He will discuss that with the GM task force ahead of distribution.

GM Monitoring

Communications, EL B7

Taylor reviewed the report made previously available to the Board. Discussion was had about the hallway behind the Co-op and recent attention it has received.

Motion. Muller moved and Andresen seconded the motion to approve EL B7 as in compliance. Motion approved.

Support of Board, EL B8

Taylor reviewed the report made previously available to the Board, noting that the 2024 report was received. He reviewed the 2025 data and will send the Board the correct report. The report was further updated to include that the Board shall maintain the Google Workspace, rather than that duty being solely assigned to the President of the Board.

Action. Taylor will send the corrected EL B8 to be voted on at the October meeting.

Internal Monitoring and Board Admin

Review and Approve Board Budget

Muller presented the budget to the Board, who discussed items in length. Discussion was had about the Board tenure and when to add new members to the Google Workspace.

Action. The Board Development Committee will discuss the Board terms of service during their next meeting.

Action. The Policy Committee will review the confidentiality policies to ensure they are legally binding.

Action. Taylor will discuss the September stipends with Co-op staff.

Motion. Wang moved and Cronin seconded the motion to approve the budget as discussed. Motion approved with one abstention. will send out an advance copy of the budget for Board discussion and review via email.

Ends Review Task Force

Cronin reported that there were some scheduling issues and the task force will report back once they have met with the Marketing team.

Action. Cronin to reach out to the Marketing team to plan a rollout strategy for the new end.

President Elections

Wang presented the two candidates for President and sent out a link to vote. Wang was elected President.

MOO Recap

Wang reported that the MOO went well and was well attended. He reported that there was decent interaction with the vendors.

Committee Updates

Engagement Committee

Andresen reported that the Book Club has chosen titles through February to give time for people to read the books and for the store to create marketing materials. Muller will reach out to the store to discuss the pins.

Board Development Committee

Wang stated that the committee has been focused on the elections and they will meet tomorrow to discuss onboarding the two new candidates. He reported that the committee is considering paying the Board stipend starting in November, rather than October, to ensure the new Board members stick through the first month of service. October and November's stipends will be paid at once.

Policy Committee

Cronin reported that the committee reviewed the general policy language and presented the Board with several questions and options. Discussion was had about the tense of the language, usage of shall vs will, a definitions appendix, and whether "the Board" should be capitalized or not.

It was suggested that the Board continue to review these policies at the retreat.

Executive Session

Motion. Muller moved and Andresen seconded the motion to enter Executive Session.
Motion approved.

The Board entered Executive Session at 7:06pm.

The Board left Executive Session at 7:12pm.

Closing

Newsletter Assignment

Wang will recap the MOO and address the owners as their new President.

Other Tasks and Assignments

Taylor will reach out to other Co-ops to see how they increased their owner share.

Review of Action Items from This Meeting

Montgomery reviewed the action items.

Board Bits and Owner Updates Postlude

Action. Montgomery to send these to the Marketing team.

GM Evaluation

The Board reviewed the GM evaluation and made changes as needed.

Action. The GM task force will discuss GM evaluation with Taylor during the next meeting.

Old Business

There was none.

New Business

There was none.

Adjourn

Motion. Cronin moved and Wang seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 7:48pm.