
MINUTES
Common Ground Food Co-op
Board Meeting
5:30pm-7:30pm Central Time
July 21, 2025

Call to Order

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

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

Parson was not in attendance with an excused absence.

Guests/Owners

Sharlie, the Co-op Wellness Manager, was in attendance.

Public Comment

There were none.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Barnes noted that the top of the June minutes still reflected the May meeting date, and Montgomery updated the file.

Motion. Muller moved and Barnes seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda as amended. Motion approved.

Monthly Operations Report and Financials

Overview

Taylor reviewed the MORE and financial reports previously made available to the Board. He reported that another company has been contacted to review the Co-op's financials.

GM Monitoring

Ownership, EL B4

Taylor reviewed EL B4. Discussion was had about the current owner equity fee of \$60 and potentially raising it.

Action. Taylor to research Co-op's of a similar size and report back on their equity fees and how they raised their fees, if at all.

Motion. Muller moved and Wang seconded the motion to accept EL B4 as in compliance. Motion approved.

Internal Monitoring and Board Admin

Internal Policy Monitoring Discussion

Muller stated that this agenda item is a holdover from when the Board didn't have a policy committee. It was kept on the calendar as a reminder to revisit the need for the committee each year. Because there is currently a Policy Committee, this agenda item was skipped.

Ends Review Task Force

Cronin reported that the task force reviewed the wording for the potential new End since the last Board meeting and presented options, which were edited during the discussion. Next steps were considered.

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

Motion. Muller moved and Wang seconded the motion to adopt the new end that **The Co-op supports our community's resilience while ensuring its own economic stability**. Motion approved.

Approve Study Calendar

Discussion was had about the Board study calendar, which has not been populated in some time. There was interest in coming back to this initiative. Cronin offered to share a presentation on Google Drive spaces, which would be an excellent training during the new Board retreat.

Action. The 2024-2025 Board Development Committee will populate a draft study calendar that the 2025-2026 committee will refine and present for approval. The first event will be held in conjunction with the January 2026 Board meeting.

Taylor noted that Board holism, policy governance, and an NCG presentation (Tony Alongi) should be given each year, reiterated at least once throughout the year. Cronin shared that Heidi Leuszler (Berries and Flower) may be a good resource to speak about what it takes to sell products in a store.

Review Committee Charters

Action. Each committee chair (Engagement, Board Development, and Policy) will get their committees together to discuss and propose changes (if any) to their committee charters during the August meeting.

Committee Updates

Owner Engagement Committee

Andresen and Muller gave an update on the Board button and book club efforts. They asked the Board to recommend suggestions for the book club to read.

Board Development Committee

Wang noted that the election packet and applications are live and he will work with the Marketing team to send reminders to the owners to submit their applications. A new response platform may be explored in 2026.

Policy Committee

Cronin reported that there were no assigned reviews for this month, but that the committee has been reviewing the documents for formatting and removing gendered language.

Executive Session

Motion. Montgomery moved and Cronin seconded the motion to enter Executive Session. Motion approved.

The Board entered Executive Session at 6:38pm.

The Board left Executive Session at 7:18pm.

Closing

Newsletter Assignment

Andresen is submitting a newsletter piece and Wang is considering adding an election item.

Other Tasks and Assignments

There were none.

Review of Action Items from This Meeting

Coleman reviewed the action items.

Board Bits and Owner Updates Postlude

Action. Montgomery will send Board Bits and Owner Update items to Buckman.

Old Business

There was none.

New Business

Wang asked Board members not running for reelection to sign up for Board nominee interviews.

Adjourn

Motion. Muller moved and Wang seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 7:25pm.