

Common Ground Food Co-op
 Board Meeting Minutes
 June 11, 2019
 6:15 pm to 8:15 pm
 Urbana First United Methodist Church, 2nd floor Parlor – Urbana, Illinois

Present: Karen Carney, Magdalena Casper-Shipp, Charles Delman, Colin Dodson, Margaret Johnstone, Marissa Stewart, Evelyne Tardy, Julie Zilles

Absent: Kathleen Moreno

Others Present: Gary Taylor, GM
 Joanne Mierek, Staff
 Patti Petrie, Owner
 Jeffrey Chandler, Minute Taker

Proceedings	
Meeting called to order	At 6:15 pm by Marissa Stewart
1. Preliminaries	<p>A. Guests/Owners</p> <p>Gary Taylor, GM Joanne Mierek, Staff Patti Petrie, Owner Jeffrey Chandler, Minute Taker</p> <p>B. Public Comment</p> <p>Patti Petrie, owner, noted first that the agenda for the meeting is not posted on the store web site, and should be available to owners in an owner-owned entity. She suggested that it was “disturbing” that amendments can be made at the meeting, since changing the agenda lacks transparency. She also suggested that public comment should be allowed at the end of the meeting for further comment after the business of the meeting occurs.</p> <p>C. Agenda Amendments</p> <p>It was noted that the Election Packet was posted late yesterday and is the incorrect version, to be updated.</p>

<p>2. Board Study</p>	<p>A. Visioning</p> <p>Karen Carney presented a power point, and Julie Zilles covered the history of the Visioning project from 2016 to present. Karen then reviewed the information gathered from the recent work groups. She reviewed 3 groups of ideas they received including: ideas that are already being implemented, ideas already under investigation (including, diversity, curbside service, delivery, partnerships with nutritionists/physicians, events at local farms, staff/board communication), and big ideas for the future (food/grocery truck, community kitchen, seed bank, dismantling structural racism, and a solidarity model).</p> <p>Karen then reviewed the committee's recommendations to the board in regards to structure, priority, and working group changes. The committee recommends the working group, board, and co-op choose a single priority to focus on for a defined period of time. Julie specified that instead of the current process wherein every 5-7 years the board solicits visioning input and then tries to focus on numerous ideas, this would allow for an ongoing visioning process where a new idea and priority would phase in over time.</p> <p>Karen also clarified the committee would then be charged with bringing ideas and information forward regarding the main priority. Evelyne Tardy asked what the specifics of the recommended priority of local foods and production would entail. Colin Dodson also noted that the five priorities under consideration are interrelated, so that by focusing on one priority the board could also address another priority in tandem. There</p>

was additional discussion regarding the benefit of focusing on one priority.

Gary Taylor added that his focus on local farms and production is connected to helping as many local farmers as possible, while also driving sales. He noted the co-op's most unique quality is its connection to local producers; they need our help to maintain their farms, which also helps to strengthen the local community. He notes that focusing on local doesn't mean everything else is let go, as there will be further focus on the Ends from operations that will continue to promote other priorities.

Colin further added that operations could focus on local farmers, while the board has a larger long-term visioning focus; they also noted that maybe the board should ask owners to decide what the focus should be. Evelyne added that she would also like to understand the reasoning behind the local production choice, noting that there are opportunities for improvement but it is not lacking, whereas she feels diversity is clearly lacking. Joanne Mierek suggested that focusing on local foods could be expanded to other local issues of interest. Magdalena noted agreement with the committee's proposed tasks and deliverables, and took the local priority as a way to focus action on Ends that impact or are impacted by local resources. Charles Delman expressed concern about not working on other priorities, specifically worker engagement, if we make local the sole focus.

There was further discussion regarding ways the local priority would tie into Ends and other potential visioning initiatives, while also expanding on and strengthening the local opportunities. A timeline was also discussed.

	<p>Evelyne added when the board votes on this she would like language included that specifies work should be done on the other areas as well.</p>
<p>3. Consent Agenda</p>	<p>A. Public Minutes from May Meeting B. Private Minutes from May Meeting C. GM Operational Update (MORe) D. Financial Audit</p> <p>Action Taken The board accepted items C and D of the consent agenda.</p> <p>Magdalena asked for the minutes to be revised to note she did not vote yes to appoint Colin Dodson to the board.</p> <p>Action Taken The board approved the minutes as amended. Karen Carney, Charles Delman, Colin Dodson, and Julie Zilles abstained due to absence in May.</p>
<p>4. Board Admin</p>	<p>A. Conflicts of Interest Colin noted that there may be several perceived conflicts of interest, since they are a paid staff member, direct report of GM, and IT coordinator. Colin also worked with others to form a worker’s committee at the co-op, as well as a group of concerned owners and staff known as Friends of Common Ground. In addition, Colin noted that they serve on the board of the Independent Media Center, and belong to the party for socialism and liberation, and actnow.</p>
<p>5. Committee Updates</p>	<p>A. Board Development Committee</p>

	<p>Magdalena Casper-Shipp noted the Election Packet that was uploaded was incorrect. At this point the vote will have to be electronic prior to July 1st when it must be released. Marissa also requested that if reports are posted late to mark them to notify others.</p> <p>B. Owner Outreach Committee Evelyne reported that volunteers are needed for tabling and newsletter, a sign-up was sent around, along with ideas for tabling alternative events and ideas. She also added clarification to the new tabling requirement details.</p> <p>C. Policy Committee Charles reported that he would like the July agenda to include discussion on conflicts of interest, and votes for by-law and policy changes.</p> <p>D. Visioning Working Group See Board Study.</p>
<p>6. Board Admin</p>	<p>A. Committee Appointment Marissa noted Colin needs to be assigned to a committee, and their preference is for the Policy Committee, but she also wanted the board to consider workload and need of other committees. Colin stated they would provide a vital insight for the board staff policies. Julie notes she finds a perceived conflict of interest with a staff member serving on the committee that would recommend staff board member policies. Charles added the committee does not make policy; they only recommend policy to the board for approval, and often note when the committee is not in agreement on certain points. Kathleen had expressed interest in moving from Policy to Owner Outreach last</p>

	<p>month, but she is still officially on the Policy Committee.</p> <p>Action Taken The board approved a motion to assign Colin Dodson to the policy Committee. (5 yes votes, 3 no votes)</p> <p>B. Election Packet Will be discussed and voted on electronically.</p> <p>C. Visioning Proposal</p> <p>Action Taken The board unanimously approved a motion to charge the Visioning Committee to expand and investigate the new visioning priority of local foods and productions, with attention to other areas of focus, and to provide specific deliverables to the board.</p>
7. Lease Update	
8. Personnel Update	
9. Board Attendance	
Board Attendance (continued)	<p>Action Taken The board approved a motion to excuse Charles Delman for good cause. Charles Delman abstained.</p>

10. Closing	A. Next meeting July 8, 2019 B. Outreach calendar assignments Tabling July: Evelyne @ Ice Cream Social June 29 Newsletter: Julie C. Other assignments D. Check-out
Meeting Adjourned	At 8:13 pm by Marissa Stewart