

Minutes of the Springfield Food Co-op Board of Directors
Annual Meeting
Wednesday, June 19, 2013

Board Members Present: Christine Speidel (President), Brooke Decker (Vice President & Facilitator), Aram Polster (Secretary), Steve Greene (Treasurer), Cherie Harris, Dan O'donnell, Ron Hoffman

Ex-Officio: Neomi Lauritsen, Lucy Georgeff

Member Audience: 26 Member Households

Call to Order: 6:40 PM

Minutes of 6/6/12: Susan Brace made a motion, seconded by Ann Whitcomb to accept the minutes of 6/6/2012 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Annual Reports to the Membership

Presidents Report (Christine Speidel): We made a lot of progress in the last year. Additional space was purchased for the Co-op from Deb Ryan. Purchase of the 'Common Space' was negotiated from the Condo Association with cash on hand. While the garage was not purchased, we do have an option to do so in the next 4 years. All current occupied space is now fully under the control of the Co-op. A reset is in the works. In the next year there should be more retail space opened up. Preliminary financial numbers were presented last year while in the middle of the financial review. The results of that review were positive and no major changes were necessary. Actual financial figures are being provided this year. Two vacant board positions were filled by appointment during the course of the last year; the Board welcomed Dan O'Donnell and Ron Hoffman. All current board members have agreed to run for re-election and there are two new candidates. So for the first time in many years there will be a full Board. Neomi continues to do great things with the Co-op.

We were previously put on a 'watch list' by the NCGA (National Cooperative Grocers Association) due to our financial position. As of June 14th we were taking off that watch list. Under Neomi's leadership the co-op has improved and the NCGA is confident in the Co-op position. Thank you to all who made this a successful year.

Management Report (Neomi Lauritsen): Thank you for helping the Co-op grow. Thank you to all our staff. The sales seen on the annual report are happening with 18 staff members. A reduction from 20 - 24 staff members in prior years. There are currently 1,309 members of the Co-op, which means we are gaining about 100 new members per year. We currently wholesale from 82 local vendors, including small

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business and produce vendors. It was a great year! We have utilized the NCGA to help with lots of decisions, they are behind us and want to help and want us to use the building to our full capacity. Thank you to all volunteers including Charles, Dan, Ann and the entire Board – thank you all.

Financial Report (Steve Greene): We have come forward with substantial growth. In the last two years, our sales have gone up almost 42.8%. Close to \$50,000 in checking and savings. It has been a positive experience for the entire Board.

Q&A No questions or comments.

Proposed Changes to the Bylaws:

This has been a work in progress since last September. Aram and Christine reviewed all bylaws in search of items that did not make sense and needed updating. Some major changes are being proposed and others that are very minor.

Some major points are as follows, but all were outlined in the mailings sent out prior to the meeting and provided tonight:

- 1) Structure of membership from household basis to a per adult basis. Administering the system has been difficult; break up of household and who gets membership. A one adult system would clarify who owns the share.
- 2) Using electronic notification in lieu of mailing notice (specifically annual meeting). Would like to have the option of emailing – members can opt out so those who prefer US Postal mail can still receive it that way. It would be a significant cost savings to the Co-op. There is a sign up in at register for Members to provide their email, if they haven't already. Bi-weekly fliers are not currently mailed and are available by email.

Erwin Post made a motion, seconded by Josie Hingston that the bylaw changes as proposed by the Board be adopted. The motion passed unanimously.

Erwin has read all of the proposed changes and they all make sense to him as a former Board Member.

Open Session Seth Lauritsen spoke informing everyone that he truly enjoys working at the Co-op.

Steve Greene asked if there are different products or different things you would like to see. He envisions it as a 'One stop shop' with approximately 20% more retail space

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available over the next few months. Ed Becker asked if there were any plans for a café? Steve responded that it's not in the immediate plan. There has already been the addition of more fresh baked pastries, the coffee counter was added along with more 'take-out' deli options, limitation of seating would be an issue for a café. Neomi added that she receives a request at least once a week for a sit-down area. Trudy Greene suggested a make your own Almond Butter station. One member asked if the Supplement Department would be expanded? Neomi mentioned that Co-ops are shying away from Supplements in part due to the large amount of money/inventory sitting on the shelf. Fresh / Healthy is the direction that Co-ops are leaning toward. Bulk and produce both need more space and attention along with the ability to work more efficiently in all departments. Another member asked that we describe the expansion – relative to space. Steve Greene spoke: the wall behind walk-in cooler will mostly come down w/ posts. The walk-in will be pushed against the back wall. Ed Becker reminded that the cooler is glued to the floor – so be prepared for extra work in moving it. Erwin Post asked if the walk-in is of adequate size, are there plans to increase its size? Steve added that there is talk of putting another walk-in attached to the kitchen door into the parking. The wall that separates the kitchen from bulk will hopefully come down as well, with support posts. Molly asked if there will be Gluten Free bins (specifically for grains). Neomi agreed that this was an issue and was in the works. There are also plans for a porch at the front of the store for the sale of plants and other merchandise outside in nice weather. It would be a covered, timber frame entry.

Board Elections Cherie Harris is the only remaining board member. Introductions took place of new potential board members; Josephine (Josie) Hingston and Jane Sandelman.

Josie 3 year term (Proposed New Member)

Jane 3 year term (Proposed New Member)

Brooke 2 year term

Steve 2 year term

Ron 2 year term

Aram 2 year term

Dan 1 year term

Christine 1 year term

Betsy Levine made a motion, seconded by Susan Brace to accept the nominees as stated. The motion passed unanimously.

Christine made a motion, seconded by Ron to adjourn the meeting at 7:22 PM. The motion passed unanimously.

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Angela Farrar
Recording Secretary