

BELFAST CO-OP BOARD MEETING - July 22, 2010

PRESENT: Jeanne Gail, Wayne Kraeger, Phil Prince, Jerry Savitz, Paul Sheridan, Zafra Whitcomb.  
ABSENT: Russ Barber, Allen Ginsberg, Debbi Lasky, Bindy Pendleton, Kip Penney. STAFF: Chris Grigsby, Mylisa Vowles.

FACILITATOR: Zafra Scribe: Paul Timekeeper: Jerry Vibewatcher: Phil

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Wayne has a new e-mail address.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: 6/24/10, were accepted: Yes 5, No 0, Abstain 1, with one change: from 'Sub-Scribe' to 'Co-Scribe.' Were also accepted for website publication, with one change, deleting last two sentences in the Financial Report: Yes 6, No 0, Abstain 0.

GENERAL MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT: a written report was received. Questions, comments, etc:

-corrections to GMT report: the total cost for inside rear stairs, including labor was \$900. Also, it is now called Worker's Compensation vs. Workman's Compensation.

- thank you for a positive, nice report. We appreciate the good energy, excellent staff.

-Volunteers needed for Customer Appreciation day, Sat. 8/21. Contact Kate Harris or Fran Clemetson. That day, Jeanne Gail will be doing health coaching on preventing & reversing diabetes.

MEMBERSHIP COMMENTS: Message from member Kate Harris concerning her first-hand experience traveling to Columbia (country) and meeting with unionists in the food and beverage industries, and their problems with the Coca-Cola company. Copies will be distributed to the board. Because of issues with Coke, a co-op in Washington state has replaced Odwalla with a local organic juice brand, Columbia Gorge, which will begin distribution on east coast in the fall (info at cogojuce.com). Comment that small local companies often lack a distribution network, a reason why they get bought up by larger companies.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Sales up 4.1%, Cost of Goods up 6.5%. Traditionally, large deficits are seen in September report, due to lumping of expenses. Attempts have been made to spread these out over the 12 months. We have a good amount of funds in the bank. Joe Jordan is working on a possible refinance for our coming balloon payment, and is awaiting bank replies. Question: should we be spending now to avoid income taxes? We have lots of little projects ongoing, under \$500, for maintenance and repairs, but not improvements or equipment, which would effect taxes. Re: CoCoFiSt, their Co-op metrics is in transition (the means of comparison between co-ops). There is some question as to what will/will not be available to us as a non-NCGA member. Therefore this initiative is on hold until that is resolved. Other co-ops state a 1 to 5% savings using CoCoFiSt (Common Cooperative Financial Statements), which is updated quarterly.

LONG-RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE: written report received. Tonight, a review of the Building and Grounds priorities. Membership fee income has been on the upswing as we get a better handle on it. We have funds in savings from fees right now. Four recommendations: a new meat freezer at rear of store; a walk-in freezer in basement; new produce display cases; re-paving the parking lot (cost will depend on day or night construction). These projects are being forwarded to the Finance Committee for review. How to pay for these will be part of the capital budgeting process.

PURCHASING POLICY COMMITTEE: written report received. Board briefly discussed Odwalla/ Coke issue. Odwalla has its own separate company, and CEO, but also appears to take its direction from Coke. Research into other sources of juices will be a good idea. Additional questions for the board:

- to drop inquiries on Medical Marijuana distribution, unless/until changes on state level? OK.
- to drop topic of tobacco sales unless/until member requests? OK.
- if committee will need to vote to recommend an action to the board concerning Odwalla/Coke product sales, what is definition of a general membership member of the Committee? We have one member who joined committee after the last Annual Meeting. Who gets to vote at Committee meetings? Any member who attends? No clear answer at this time.

RECYCLING COMMITTEE: no written report. Good news: deli department was buying Pace salsa in #7 plastic jugs, virtually unrecyclable. In switching to Green Mountain salsa, this now comes in glass.

HOMEWORK and MEETING REVIEW: B&G to report on signing exit/entrances for parking lot; process to gather meeting materials needs fine-tuning, perhaps also e-mail out to all, to read beforehand; should committee reports be posted on web, as these are unapproved, working documents?; please e-mail reports to Zafra as plain text by Friday morning prior to board meetings; draft agenda OK to post on website.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, August 26th, 2010, at Waterfall Arts. Wayne will facilitate.