

BELFAST CO-OP BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
November 15, 2012

PRESENT: Jeanne Gail, Chris Groden, Debbi Lasky, Paul Nyren, Bindy Pendleton, Kip Penney, Jerry Savitz, Janis Stone, Tony Swebilus, Zafra Whitcomb

GMs: Joe Jordan, Chris Grigsby, Mylisa Vowles

ABSENT: Betsy Garrold, Wayne Kraeger, Meg Peterson

FACILITATOR: Phil Timekeeper: Bindy Vibe-watcher: Debbi

ANNOUNCEMENTS: A staff craft fair will be held in the children's/massage nook for the month of December. A staff art show is scheduled for February.
Goldy, nattily attired in a suit, sans hat, and Janis accepted the Agricultural Heritage Award for the Co-op at the Chamber of Commerce banquet.

MINUTES: Accepted as amended, 10 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining
Web/wall version: no changes.

MEMBER COMMENTS: A member attended the Member Tea with the intention of joining a worker-member program, so she expressed strong regret that we no longer have one.

GENERAL MANAGEMENT TEAM: Written report received. Sales remain strong as we go into holiday mode, improving 9% for the month over last year, although the margin remains flat. The check-out lanes were streamlined to facilitate movement of holiday turkeys. We received positive responses to the NCGA offerings and prices. The "customized menu" tool for customers doing holiday shopping worked well, and will be used for future holidays, and sports events featuring avocados and snacks. Holiday schedules include the early 2 pm closing for the staff party on Dec. 16th, to which the Directors are invited to come, celebrate, and help out.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Chart reports received for September and October 2012, and fiscal year end as well. The corrected net income for October is \$15,000.
In discussion of the budget, the question arose as to how the so-called "fiscal cliff" was factored in: growth for next year is anticipated to be "moderate." A motion was moved and seconded, then passed, to approve the budget, 10 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.
An opportunity has arisen for the Co-op to buy a 30' x 100' parcel of land abutting the south side of the building. We presently own 12' on that side of the building, so if we picked up that land we could potentially expand up to 42' to the side. Attorney Bill Kelley has offered to do the legal paperwork to close a sale gratis.
After a discussion of price estimates and anticipated roadblocks to our use of the parcel, it was moved and seconded that Jerry Savitz, on behalf of the Finance Committee, has the authority to negotiate. The motion passed: 10 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

BOARD DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE: Retreat plans are firming up: the date is January 12. The agenda will be half a day on facilitation and communication skills, and half a day on Board and Management roles in decision making about growth issues. The committee is working on selecting a meeting site.
As to Board recruitment, the committee will provide a handout of talking points to use when contacting candidates. The committee will start a file on recruitment that contains names of candidates, literature, etc. All directors are expected to submit 1 to 3 names of potential candidates. The Nomination and Election Committee, with Phil as convener, will begin meeting this month.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: Verbal report about the first member tea of 4 similar gatherings planned for the year, held this afternoon just before this BOD meeting. About 8 members attended, including 3 members who work on committees.

The Annual Meeting Planning ad hoc Committee will resume meeting, with Bindy as convener. Committees were advised to start working on their reports for the annual report to be published well in advance of the annual meeting.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE: Written report received. The group first decided to begin repairs on the chimney to mitigate the moisture under the ground floor office. Next they discussed issues around the proposed purchase of abutting property: price appraisal, existing site plans, Right of Way for the Co-op, PC zoning restrictions, and liens. Finally the committee decided to go ahead with replacing the Pendleton Street door, to winterize the front windows, and to look into costs for an air-lock for the front door and a concrete retaining wall on the south side of the building.

LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE: Written report received. The committee submitted 3 working drafts of the mission statement for the proposed NPO, or non-profit entity associated with the Co-op. They requested feedback from all directors on this work to be sent to lorpcomm@belfast.coop

MEETING REVIEW: We gave ourselves good grades for being on time throughout.

HOMEWORK:

- The deadline for the newsletter article, on our election and annual meeting, is December 15th.
- Jerry will negotiate for the Finance Committee for possible purchase of abutting parcel.
- All directors will submit 1 to 3 names of candidates for Board election.
- Board Development is finalizing retreat plans.
- Annual Meeting Planning Committee to convene, draw up a calendar
- Election and Nominating Committee to convene, Phil as convener

All directors requested to contribute text or comment on draft mission statement for NPO and send these to LRP committee

- Debbi and Kip need to state whether they will run again for Board

PARKING LOT:

Board Development: proposals for how to handle requests for time extension in meetings

Next meeting: December 20, which is the 3rd Thursday

Facilitator: Bindy Boxer: Phil Snacker: Chris

-----End of minutes, submitted by Jeanne Gail-----