

BELFAST CO-OP BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING Minutes Sept 26, 2013

PRESENT: Jane Awbrey, Cindy Canavan, Jeanne Gail, Betsy Garrold, Doug Johnson, Jean Lenderking, Paul Nyren, Bindy Pendleton, Kip Penney, Meg Peterson, Phil Prince, Jerry Savitz, Janis Stone, Zafra Whitcomb

GMs: Chris Grigsby, Joe Jordan, Mylisa Vowles

ABSENT: Ron Braybrook, Debbi Lasky

MEMBERS: Susie Dexter

FACILITATOR: Bindy TIMEKEEPER: Paul VIBE-WATCHER: Phil

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- 1) Maine State sales tax will increase to 5.5% on Oct. 1.
- 2) A handout about the Camden Conference is circulating, announcing upcoming talks / discussions to be held at the Belfast Free Library: "The Coming Food Crisis: How to Feed the World by 2050, Oct. 15, 6:30pm; and "Fresh Water Scarcity: The Global Crisis of Our Time," Nov. 5, 6:30pm.

CONSENT AGENDA: After one correction to wording of minutes, accepted by consensus, with no objections.

MEMBER COMMENTS: On a Tuesday, a Senior-aged member objected to the rock music on the PA system, that it made hearing difficult.

GENERAL MANAGEMENT TEAM: The Co-op Grill in the City Park took in \$21,000 in sales, but amounted to a loss of about \$9,000. This included spending about \$1500 each on new equipment and signage, and advertising. Rent was \$200/month. Chris has proposed to Belfast Parks and Recreation that if we operate the Grill next summer, that they offer us \$1/month plus a percent of profit for the rental fee.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: September's numbers are close to projected, resulting in almost 11 days of cash on hand, near our goal. Our year's net profit, before final adjustments, is expected to be about \$100,000. Expenses, however have been high, especially labor, due to hiring and training new Human Resources and Front End managers, some illnesses among staff, and high turnover, especially of summer employees. Looking at the 2014 budget, we expect savings on electricity and workers comp insurance. Health insurance costs, however, are an unknown, mainly because of uncertainties about the rates we will have to pay under the Affordable Care Act, and even what choices employees will make for their and their families' coverage. We have budgeted \$130,000 which is a 25% increase. This amounts to 1.7% of the \$7.7 M budget. The 2014 budget was passed by consensus with no firm objections. One Director "stood aside" because of uncertainties about what health insurance costs will be.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS: One of the next capital expenses will be new produce cases. The cases being considered will run on a new central compressor, and be much more energy efficient. The cost, over \$30,000, is expected to come from profit.

BOARD DEVELOPMENT: Dates for the fall pre-retreat pot-luck gathering, Nov. 2, for the Board retreat, Jan. 11, 2014 (snowdate Jan. 12), and the Annual Meeting, March 22, were accepted by a show of hands. Note that Policy Governance will be the topic of the retreat.

MEETING REVIEW:

HOMEWORK:

- All directors: give Zafra feedback on preferred format for the budget

NEXT MEETING: October 24. There will be an executive committee meeting for GM evaluations

FACILITATOR: Zafra BOXER (and time gadget): Phil

End of minutes. Submitted by Jeanne Gail, scribe