

BELFAST CO-OP BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING Minutes Dec 19, 2013

PRESENT: Ron Braybrook, Cindy Canavan, Betsy Garrold, Chris Groden, Debbi Lasky, Jean Lenderking, Paul Nyren, Meg Peterson, Phil Prince, Jerry Savitz, Janis Stone, Zafra Whitcomb

GMs: Chris Grigsby, Mylisa Vowles

ABSENT: Jane Awbrey, Doug Johnson, Kip Penney, Bindy Pendleton, Joe Jordan

MEMBERS: Susie Dexter

FACILITATOR: Zafra TIME-KEEPER: Janis VIBE-WATCHER: _____

CONSENT AGENDA: GMT and Committee meeting notes accepted by consensus.
The minutes were missing a section: corrected draft to be reviewed at next meeting.

MEMBER COMMENTS: A wonderful holiday party at Point Lookout, catering very well done. Even the Point Lookout manager commented positively.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: The final decision about the patronage dividend will be made after Mike Nickerson's report. We can discuss the percentage to be distributed ahead of that, but we have plenty of time as the deadline for sending notices to members is June. November figures show a loss, which was budgeted, as is typical for the month due to expenses from the holiday and charitable giving. Several indices show improvement, such as much lower debt to equity ratio, compensation to sales ratio, and cash on hand, now over 2 weeks of cash on hand. Data from CoCoFst place us now as the smallest of the medium-sized co-ops, up from our former spot as largest of the small co-ops.

BOARD DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:

(See discussion topics in Consent Agenda) Proposal to join the Co-operative Board Leadership Development program, which costs \$6,450 per year, \$2,100 of which will be paid by an NCGA grant. Remaining \$4,350 will come from budgeted Board funds, paid in 4 quarterly installments. Passed by consensus. Zafra will work with Mark Goehring of the CBLD team on fulfilling our membership, and with NCGA for financing. He circulated the CBLD Participation Agreement for Directors to read. Proposed that we participate in the CBLD sessions to be held Jan. 11 in Keene, NH where they will be presenting 2 simultaneous workshops: CBL-101, like the one some of us attended in Damariscotta, and a leadership training workshop. The Leadership Training topics include: 3 levels of leadership development, individual skill building, building an effective team, integrating the strategic process into a work plan, and servant leadership. Head counts showed that all would be willing to attend the planned Board retreat if it were held as scheduled January 11 in Belfast. 11 are in favor of sending Directors to the CBLD sessions, and 5 could plan to attend, 5 were unsure, 2 could not attend, and 1 was not in favor of the idea.

Resolution: to postpone our Board Retreat so we can maximize participation in the CBLD workshops in Keene, NH on Jan. 11, including CBL-101 and Leadership Training. This would also create a nice schedule of development of our Board: CBLD trainings, Annual Meeting, CBLD "Co-op Cafe" on March 15 in Keene, NH, followed by our Board retreat, which could be facilitated with the help of CBLD. Approved by consensus.

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION COMMITTEE:

Current Directors whose terms are up have yet to declare: Betsy will run, Jerry and Paul remain undecided. Some names have been submitted as potential candidates to run for the Board: Peter Baldwin, Jim Reed, Russ Barber, Neal Parent, Sharon Walsh, Jessica Johnson. It's a good idea to seek additional candidates.

LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE:

The LRP Committee requests approval from the Board to find an "outreach group" separate from the LRP to eventually become the "working group" to start the nonprofit organization. Supported by consensus.

ANNUAL MEETING PLANNING/MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE?:

See Bindy's request for volunteers in the consent agenda. Meg, Cindy, and Mylisa spoke up to start working on the Annual Meeting.

PURCHASING POLICY COMMITTEE:

We have yet to receive meeting notes for the consent agenda. Chris Groden is convener, Susie is notetaker: they state that they held meetings and submitted notes. They are writing a draft purchasing policy and plan to present this draft for discussion at the Annual Meeting. Some Directors objected, and insisted that the Board see the draft before it is distributed to the member-owners. They request of the PP committee that the draft be on the agenda for the February Board meeting.

MEETING REVIEW:

HOMEWORK:

all Directors let Zafra know if you plan to attend the CBLD workshops in Keene Jan. 11

those whose terms are expiring: declare if running for Board again

all propose Board candidates

Zafra to arrange with CBLD and NCGA for our membership and participation

PP Committee prepare a draft of policy for next meeting

Jeanne to find lost section of last month's minutes for approval at next meeting

Next meeting: January 23 Facilitator: Betsy

End of minutes. Submitted by Jeanne Gail, Scribe