

**Frederick County Consumer Cooperative
Board of Directors Meeting
June 28, 2018
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Board members present: Lisa Williams, John Beutler, Sasha Crum, Sibylle Mangum, Kate Moss, Megan Schneebaum, and Elina Myers

Board members not present: Annie Marshall and Jim Hanna

Staff members present: Bob Thompson, Vincent Townsend; Jared Pringle came by to say “hi.”

The meeting was called to order at 6 pm by Lisa Williams, Board President. A quorum was present.

Consent Agenda

The Consent Agenda, including refund requests from owners 3868, 5648, 6756, and 7335, who are moving; owner 7968, who doesn't shop as often as before; and owner 8030, who is unhappy with owner benefits, was approved. Also included - a proposal to name Sasha Crum and Jared Pringle as authorized check signers.

Sasha moved to approve, John seconded, and all were in favor.

Owner Comment Period

Members Vincent Townsend (staff), Stephanie Walker, and Ann Andrex were in attendance.

Member, Ann Andrex, talked about a pilot program for roofless solar. Neighborhood Sun, a B Corp (Triple bottom line type company) is setting up a solar array of 18 acres in Williamsport. Anyone paying the power company for electric - individuals - may buy a subscription. NS is requesting that the Common Market sign a partnership agreement to allow a representative to promote subscriptions at the store. Requesting a one-year agreement between CM and NS, no cost. For every household that signs up NS will donate \$100 to CM.

Bob will discuss with Marketing, and get back to Ann tomorrow.

Electronic Monitoring

D5 BOD Member Code of Conduct –

Recently revised language was included in the monitoring.

John moved to approve board monitoring; Sasha seconded. All were in favor.

GM Monitoring

B5 Communications and Counsel to the Board –

Did not get enough responses, so going to revisit next month. Emergency management succession.

Expansion Update

Bob gave an update on the expansion.

Some good news: Going to hit \$21M in sales this weekend. Cooler purchased for lobby area will pay for itself in two weekends. Bigger retailers are paying their new suppliers in 90 days; we pay in 30 days - often in just two weeks.

Harvest Co-op Loan Request

Bob sometimes helps other coops go over P&L, including Harvest. Harvest Co-op met with National Cooperative Grocers (NCG); the new GM put together a business plan. Their two stores are on the small side, look a little old and tired.

Several Whole Foods around them. They have asked the Eastern Seaboard coops to loan them some money, for example \$10,000.

Bob will email financial data out to the board.

CCMA Debriefing and Diversity discussion

Sibylle reported that cooperative responsibility to the community was a big topic at CCMA. Diversity is being addressed at a national level. The awareness is there that it's an issue, actively working towards addressing it. Color, culture, income, religion, range of ages, and more.

A larger store would enable us to offer a wider range of products, being more inclusive. We could invite the CCMA speaker, Patricia from Ithaca, NY. Lisa Tabor from Minnesota.

Bob pointed out that our membership fee may be too high. Bob said they will go back to work on it, and bring some ideas back to the board. For example, a wellness accessibility program where owners can pay into a fund that helps low income families with ownership fees.

Elina arrived late, and concurred with Sibylle that diversity was a big topic at CCMA. Coops see greater participation in board election voting when it is available online. We could invite the CCMA speaker, Patricia from Ithaca NY. Lisa Tabor from Minnesota.

Decision to establish a committee to address diversity. Sibylle will head the committee. Megan and Elina will participate.

Advocacy Committee – Candidate Forum Debriefing

Our Candidate Forum with the League of Women Voters was a success. All nine at large candidates showed up. LWV did most of the work - wonderful moderator from Hood College. There were a lot of questions. Some of our questions (Paris Climate Accord, composting, plastic bags) were included. Three candidates used the option to submit written answers; responses were posted on our website, and on the LWV FB page. Live streamed on site to 177. 93 people onsite. Front page coverage FNP, and TV coverage. Time spent by staff on this was not excessive. Had some marketing materials outside.

Discussion on whether we do this for the General election. League of Women Voters already has four set up with co-sponsors. So they have encouraged us to have a candidates forum for the 5th district, and they would collaborate with us, use their logo on flyers, get a moderator, publicity on their FB page.

Grady invited the board to attend the next advocacy committee meeting. Requested the coop send an email blast to owners announcing the meeting - save the date 1.5 weeks in advance, and then two days ahead of the committee meeting. Grady asked if he could set up a table at the coop's outreach events. Sasha listed upcoming events.

Board Elections Update - Report on Candidate Sessions

Board info sessions - the five attendees were very enthusiastic. Sasha, Megan, and Lisa facilitated.

Kate is forwarding board applications as they are received to Annie. Owner Services gets anything submitted on the website.

Candidate Forums are coming up.

This winter the board will need to decide if the recommendations for Board candidates should become requirements.

Odds & Ends

- **Food For Change Screening (October)** <http://foodforcharge.coop>

John thinks the coop did contribute funds to this venture when it was first started. Sasha will look into renting Holiday Cinema, the library. Maybe Westview cinemas. Stephanie added that Frederick airport does screenings too.

- **MAFCA meeting July 29 @ Newark, DE**

11am - 4pm. They've asked John to get someone to come and talk about branding on a panel. Good if Bob could present on this topic. (October 27 at Bushwick Coop, Brooklyn NY. Topic will be race in coops.)

- **Retreat Date 11/17 – 11/18 confirmed**

11/17 retreat, and 11/18 new board member orientation. John suggested we go back to Clagett Center by Buckingham's Choice. Fox Haven is another option. Sasha offered to help find a location.

- **Mother Earth News Fair debriefing**

Our Coop participated with education, tables, and giveaways. This is a long standing magazine, started doing these fairs In 2010. The umbrella company recently purchased Frederick News Post, and this is the first in Frederick. 8,000 attendees, despite concurrent Frederick Arts Festival and First Saturday.

- **Good of the Order**

At pm 8:17 pm Lisa motioned to adjourn to executive session.

Minutes taken by Kate Moss.