

MINUTES

Weavers Way Cooperative Association

Spring General Membership Meeting

Sunday, May 17, 2009

Vice President David Woo called the meeting of the Weavers Way General Membership Meeting (GMM) to order at 6:00 pm on Sunday, May 17th, 2009, at Summit Church, Greene & Westview Streets, Philadelphia PA. David thanked the staff and cooperators for their help with the GMM and announced that a quorum was met. The nominees for the Board of Directors were acknowledged and the agenda reviewed.

Approval of Minutes of the Fall 2008 Meeting

The minutes of the Fall 2008 General Membership Meeting were approved unanimously.

President's Report

Board President Nancy Weinman reported that she is very happy with the performance of the co-op. The expansion effort at the Caruso site is ongoing. The member loan campaign headed by Stu Katz is progressing well. Chestnut Hill residents are enthusiastic about the new store. Board work on our End Policies has been successful. A great deal of effort went into developing these policies, and the results are included in the meeting handouts. Another important component of board work has been the member work requirement. Several meetings were held to provide members an opportunity to raise questions and voice concerns about proposed changes. A special membership meeting is scheduled July 8th for the purpose of voting on this issue. Nancy emphasized the importance of the Board's need to continually engage members and provide opportunities for member participation in the life of the co-op. A new effort to reach out to other co-ops will occur at a regional Delaware Valley co-op picnic scheduled for May 31st. Nancy expressed appreciation for Bob Noble and the Leadership Committee's work on the nominations. Sixteen members are running for eight board slots. Commemorative mugs were given to Garvey Lundy and Josh Giblin, whose board terms are over, for their service.

General Manager's Report

Glenn Bergman thanked staff and cooperators for their work on the GMM. He reported that sales, while ahead of 2008, have been less than expected and expenses have been greater than budgeted. The Ogontz store continues to lose money despite efforts to turn it around including working with the community, planning music, enhancing the appearance, and changing product line. Health insurance costs have increased tremendously; \$8000 per month due to a 46% premium hike and increased staff participation. Other health plans are being investigated and more than one plan will be offered in the future. Other cost-cutting measures being taken include labor reductions in some departments, reduced donations, and using fewer consultants. A timeline is in progress for Caruso renovations. Some features have been omitted to prevent time-consuming zoning approval. Three bids are required for the \$900,000 state grant. We have a \$55,000 matching state grant for solar panels and a \$50,000 grant for facade

improvement. Loans include \$600,000 from Valley Green, \$670,000 from the City; \$250,000 from TRF; and up to \$670,000 from PIDC. Member loans will be used to reduce commercial loans and remove liens on the buildings. Currently, we have \$350,000 in pledges, and we are hoping for \$1 million. Glenn advised anyone interested in participating in the member loan program to contact Stu Katz. He encouraged members who are not able to participate in the loan program to increase their equity investments.

Weavers Way Community Programs (WWCP)

WWCP Executive Director Rachel Milenbach reported on progress made to date. Carly Chelder is the new coordinator of the student Marketplace program now running in 8 schools with over 200 students participating. Children learn to sell healthy snacks, maintain inventory, and customer service skills. There is a new effort to improve Marketplace and farm education curriculum. Awbury Arboretum now has three apprentices and many interns. Six students will be paid this year at the ML King farm. Last year's intern is now studying Horticultural Science at Penn State as a direct result of his WW farm experience. And a new field-to-kitchen program has started at Stenton Family Manor where 220 people are fed daily.

Andy Lamas

David introduced University of Pennsylvania Professor Andy Lamas, one of the nation's leading consultants to community-based businesses, who concentrates on urban studies, social justice, and economic democracy. Professor Lamas described various problems associated with achieving equality. He provided a radical analysis of capitalism, the theory and practice beyond consumption, legitimacy of private property and ownership. Quoting Locke's two treatises of government regarding sweat equity and the exclusivity of private ownership, he contended that human dignity has been compromised beginning with slavery up through modern capitalism. He emphasized the need to create a mechanism to allow people to claim the value of what they create. Professor Lamas maintained that cooperatives represent a different way of establishing ownership and must inform our own thinking about equality. He commended the consumer co-ops sector for their support of activism, neighborhood, and social relationships.

Election Results

Bob Noble announced the results. There were 211 valid ballots and 2 invalid ballots.

Sylvia Carter	156	3-year term
David Woo	154	3-year term
Chris Hill	141	3-year term
Margaret Lenzi	112	3-year term
Cat Niallon	107	2-year term
Dave Tukey	92	2-year term
Brian Maher	80	2-year term
Cynthia Potter	68	2-year term

Susan Miller	66
Jen Dubin	62
Jon Jensen	58
Alexandra Ferris	45
Steve Battafarano	44
Alyssa Roho	44
Joe Pientka	43
Andrew Herman	37

The meeting adjourned 8:02pm. Professor Lamas and Glenn Bergman remained to answer questions.