

MINUTES

Weavers Way Cooperative Association Board of Directors, 6/7/2011

Attendance: Sylvia Carter, Chris Hill, Nathea Lee, Margaret Lenzi, Brian Maher, Bob Noble, Linda Shein, Sue Wasserkrug, Nancy Weinman, David Woo, Ian Zolitor
Excused absences: Stu Katz
Staff present: Glenn Bergman, Rani Singh (minutes)

The meeting began at 7:00 pm.

Agenda and Calendar Review

The agenda was rearranged somewhat to accommodate Glenn, who had to leave early. Added to agenda was a discussion of hosting CCMA in 2012. Tabled to July was the discussion of the Leadership & Finance committees. Brian will follow up with the Leadership committee about election results (number of votes per candidate) and report in July.

Submissions for the packets for the July 12 Board meeting will be due on July 3rd instead of July 5th because of the holiday. Chris or David will do survey for the G1 monitoring for July and Brian will lead the discussion. Sue will update & clean up the Board Committee list that follows the calendar.

Margaret distributed an article for the July Ends discussion.

David welcomed all new Board members.

Approve Minutes of May 2011 BOD Meeting

One amendment was proposed: When the minutes reflect a change in the Board Policy Manual, both the old & new language should be included in the minutes. Sue will revise the minutes accordingly.

Board Action: The Board unanimously approved the May 3, 2011 BOD minutes as amended.

WW Board officer elections (David, Brian & Bob)

The following were nominated for President: David Woo, Stu Katz, Brian Maher and Margaret Lenzi. All except David declined the nomination. David Woo, Margaret Lenzi, Brian Maher and Stu Katz were nominated for Vice President; Stu declined. (David was removed from the ballot after being elected President.) Sue Wasserkrug was nominated for Secretary and Chris Hill was nominated for Treasurer.

Board Action: David was elected President by acclamation; Margaret was elected Vice President; and Sue and Chris were elected Secretary and Treasurer, respectively, by acclamation.

There was a discussion of the length of the term of the immediate past president, which is defined in the by-laws as a maximum of 18 months; this issue will be added to the “Possible By-Law Amendments” section of the Board calendar. It was suggested that Chris recruit somebody to join the finance committee to informally train to become Treasurer. Bob, Sue and Sylvia volunteered to serve as Board buddies for the new Board directors.

Conflict of Interest Disclosures (To Chris)

Conflict of interest disclosure forms were distributed. All Board members were advised to consider the potential for or appearance of any conflict of interest on any issue that comes before the board, and to recuse themselves from voting on such issues.

Board Action: All Board members present signed the Conflict of Interest disclosure forms and returned them to Chris, who will make copies and distribute to all Board members.

Magarity Site Issue (Linda)

Glenn updated the Board on the status of the development of the Magarity site, particularly for the benefit of the new Board members who had not been at the May meeting. After discussion, the Board decided to work with management to keep informed about the issue. The following board members volunteered: Linda, Nathea, Brian, Ian, Chris, Nancy.

Consumer Cooperative Management Association (CCMA) conference in 2012

The CCMA conference was explained to the new Board members. WW has been asked to host the conference in 2012. After some discussion the Board decided to create an exploratory committee to study the feasibility of such an undertaking. Some issues to consider include: whether other local co-ops would be interested in assisting in the efforts; the amount of staff & Board time; and the expense.

Board Action: A committee was formed with Stu (chair), David, Sue, Margaret and Brian. The committee will report back next month, after the CCMA in San Diego later in June.

L1 Financial Conditions Q3 (Glenn)

Policy monitoring was explained to the new board members. Glenn was asked to remove references to previous ends policies. There was some discussion of the fact that sales are up but income is not, which was explained as a result of high expenses, particularly labor expenses, which Glenn said is being worked on. Glenn indicated that we had planned for the fact that the co-op would experience a loss without the grant funding. Sales at the West Oak Lane (WOL) store are still problematic and Glenn will be meeting with OARC (Ogontz Avenue Revitalization Corporation) soon.

Board Action: Board unanimously is accepted the report.

Ends Discussion Co-op Development (Bob, Nancy, David)

Bob led a discussion around the question of what more we should and can do in the area of co-op development. Bob explained that WW once had a co-op development committee that was instrumental in our involvement with PFFCU (Police and Fire Federal Credit Union) and the Energy Co-op. We are very involved with (and were instrumental in the founding of) MAFCA, the Mid Atlantic Food Co-Op Alliance, which supports new co-ops. and they work to further the co-op movement. There has been growth in the field of co-op developers, including proposed legislation to create a stream of funding for co-op development.

Weavers Way's global ends policy includes "championing the co-op model," but we have no sub-ends that express what that means. The advantage of having a sub-end would be that Glenn would have to report on it. Some issues that came up include: How can we support other co-ops? Should we deal exclusively with other co-ops whenever possible, even if they are more expensive? Or should we support businesses in general that share our principles whether they are a co-op or not? What about creating our own credit union? What is the role of MAFCA in all of this - particularly in the area of supporting local economies and developing a regional co-op label? What about a Philadelphia-only version of MAFCA? What about bringing together local co-ops to collaborate on a mutually beneficial project - for example, preserving local produce that would otherwise go to waste. Ultimately, the board decided that we did not want to change our Ends too often but would take up the issue in the future. (It will be added to Board Calendar for October 2014.)

M3 Delegation to the General Manager (David)

The self-monitoring system was explained to the new board members. It was clarified that we are monitoring ourselves, not the GM. The issue of measuring progress incrementally was brought up, but this is being investigated by a board committee. Also mentioned was the need for board members who are also staff members to keep in mind that they are not staff representatives on the board but rather representatives of the whole membership.

Fall GMM Planning Committee (David)

Margaret (chair) and Ian will be the Fall GMM planning committee. They will report back in July.

Board Retreat

The possibility of combining or substituting our Board Retreat for a CBLD (Co-op Board Leadership Development) training was discussed, and David will contact Michael Healy.

Announcements

- Ian acknowledged the challenge of wearing both a staff and board hat.
- Bob announced that the next MAFCA meeting will be on July 23 at Common Market in Frederick, MD. Because of the distance, he suggested we discuss organizing car pools at our next board meeting - not just for us but also for MAFCA members traveling from New York and other points beyond Philadelphia.

- It was pointed out that in the Shuttle Ned Case was identified as Business Manager and Treasurer, which is incorrect as Chris Hill is the treasurer. In addition the number of members may have been mis-reported. (Glenn had left the meeting by this time and could not clarify or respond.)
- David announced that Kensington Food Co-op membership is up to nearly 250 members, and they hope to start looking for real estate for a store when they reach 300. David also reported that South Philly co-op was just incorporated and will have their first membership meeting on June 29th.

Adjournment & Appraisal

Meeting adjourned at 10.32 pm.