

Hudson Grocery Cooperative  
Annual Member Meeting  
November 12, 2012

Minutes

- I. Call to Order (7:19pm)
  - a. Introduction by current President, Suzanne Hambleton
  - b. Review of meeting agenda
  - c. Introduction of current officers / directors
  - d. Discussion of project stages and “Four Cornerstones” provided on meeting agenda
    - i. Currently we are in the Organization stage.
    - ii. Once we reach 300 members, we expect to hire a consultant to do a feasibility study, and from there look at site locations and hiring a general manager.
    - iii. Discussion of actions taken to fulfill Four Cornerstone principles of Vision, Talent, Capital, and Systems.
      1. Vision: Survey of community to determine market needs.
      2. Talent: Bringing people on board to help move the project forward.
      3. Capital: Bank account established, looking at financing options.
      4. Systems: Mostly administrative.
  
- II. Directors’ Reports
  - a. Treasurer Report by Amber Erickson:
    - i. \$15 net income this first fiscal year
    - ii. Most of our funding has come from memberships
    - iii. We also received a generous contribution from RJ’s Meats
    - iv. We hired an accountant. Otherwise, bulk of expenditures come from advertising/marketing.
  - b. Vice President Report by Bridget O’Meara
    - i. We applied for a grant from the Food Co-op Initiative. Bridget pulled together our grant application with help from a few other people involved in the co-op. We were competing with 50+ other co-ops, and while we didn’t get the grant we applied for, we did receive a scholarship which we used to send the president to a training earlier this month.

ii. We've had several meetings of our Vendor Relations committee and have had discussion with local producers and local farmers. Right now we're getting to know our local producers, establishing criteria for what we want to bring into our store, and looking into process of applying for accounts with wholesalers. We want to be WIC-certified, and also fulfill other local grocery needs such as providing kosher foods for our Jewish community.

- c. Solicitation of questions from attendees
  - i. Discussion about future store location, and what happens if doors don't open.

### III. Board Election

- a. Open self-nominations and brief statements of interest
  - i. Suzanne Hambleton, current President,
  - ii. Bess Hambleton, current Secretary
  - iii. Cindy Landers, teacher
  - iv. Sarah Atkins, local business owner
  - v. Bridget O'Meara, current Vice President
  - vi. Steve Fox, current director

- b. Votes cast by written ballot

### IV. Open Discussion / Q & A

- a. Discussion of what a feasibility study is and what that will do. Plan is for a downtown store.
- b. Discussion of what members can do to help generate interest. Potluck "tupperware party" is an initiative we will be starting. Also discussion of marketing committee, which is meeting next on Wednesday Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm. We also have other committees which members and others can become involved in. Other discussion of ways to spread the word and network for the co-op. Co-op has talking points available, which Suzanne will post to the co-op's website.
- c. The Wednesday following Thanksgiving at 4:00pm, we have a ribbon-cutting ceremony with the Chamber of Commerce. That is on our online calendar, which is available from our website.

- d. Question about whether there is a winter farmer's market, and suggestion that the co-op sponsor or host that. Suggestion for vendor outreach. Suggestions of ways of cross-promoting with local institutions such as the Hudson Hospital and community garden, Master Gardeners and other groups.
  - e. Discussion of nature of share ownership, patronage dividends, and benefits / discounts to members. Currently we have reciprocity with River Market in Stillwater.
  - f. Discussion of the 300-member threshold for initiating a market study. The idea is that membership is in part a pledge of patronage, as well as capital
  - g. Discussion of introducing ourselves to the city council. Mayor Burchill liked our Facebook page, and Suzanne initiated some discussion with him.
- V. Election results announced. All nominees elected to the board of directors by unanimous vote.
- VI. Meeting Adjourned. 8:00 p.m.

### Board Meeting Minutes

Present: Suzanne Hambleton, Sarah Atkins, Cindy Landers, Steve Fox, Bridget O'Meara, Bess Hambleton

- I. Call to Order by current President
  - a. 2 items of business: election of officers, and designation of terms for staggered board
  
- II. Election of Officers
  - a. Explanation of officer roles
  - b. Suzanne would accept officer position except Secretary; nominated again for President.
  - c. Sarah would be Treasurer, as small business owner who sees this as an area of strength.
  - d. Cindy would be interested in Vice President.
  - e. Steve, Bridget are not seeking officer positions.
  - f. Bess runs again for Secretary.
  
  - g. Officers selected by unanimous vote:

- i. Suzanne = President
- ii. Cindy = Vice President
- iii. Sarah = Treasurer
- iv. Bess = Secretary

III. Meetings to be 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month, 7:00pm to 9:00pm, at the conference room in Sarah's building, 2<sup>nd</sup> and Vine.

IV. Terms set for staggered board:

- a. 3 year: Cindy and Bess
- b. 2 year: Suzanne and Sarah
- c. 1 year: Steve and Bridget

V. Looking ahead: Next meeting we'll talk about restructuring committees, board training. Next spring there is a conference in Bloomington in Indiana which we may want to send some of our board members to.

VI. December meeting to be held Thursday, Dec 13<sup>th</sup>.

VII. Meeting adjourned. 8:26 p.m.