

Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Cleveland Food Co-op

September 16, 2009

Present: Vicky Knight, Sheila McCarthy, Allyson Robichaud, Pat Garmhausen, Anna Kiss Mauser-Martinez, Stan Thomas, Judy Fillinger, Joyce Roper, Pat Needham, Denise Dameron, William Coughlan, Jim Anderson, Margaret Lund, Jay Simecek, Sam Richmond, Kevin Williams, Gareth Hardy, Kimetta Davis, Carrie Jaffe, Orteca Beasley, Rev. Thelma Townsend

Agenda: Approved as distributed.

James Anderson reported that there will be a meeting Friday of the representatives of the Cleveland Foundation, CWRU, and the Board of Directors of the Co-op, the sponsors of the study, to hear the final report. A copy of the executive summary was available at this meeting. He also reported the study group was seeking to speak with the Co-op's land lord regarding extension of its lease.

Jay Simecek presented a summary of the study. He thanked the secretary of the Board for cooperation in forwarding information requested. He interviewed the Board members. He and other members of the study group interviewed some staff and members and officers of other food cooperatives. A survey of members generated 240 responses.

Jay reported that the Co-op was clearly a business institution with a long term contribution to the Circle community that was recognized by the institutions in the area. It has financial difficulties. Staff and members really care. Member investment should increase. Market potential is good. The study includes action proposals to be taken in three steps: a bootstrap phase, an initial investment phase after progress, and a second investment phase. An important theme of the presentation was the need for change, including development of a new vision and mission statement for the future. People want the same thing—a clean, vibrant and successful co-op. Among the changes stressed were improvements in information available to management and board.

A copy of the action plan section of the report was distributed to members of the board.

Open forum: Gareth Hardy spoke of matters relevant to the success of the Co-op based on his experience. Orteca Beasley spoke of his interest in being of assistance.

Minutes: Minutes of the meeting of August 19, 2009 were approved as distributed.

Finance Committee: Report is attached.

Facilities Committee: Report is attached.

Membership Committee: Committee sponsored an event for members from 1 to 4 pm Sunday September 13. In addition to clean-up in preparation they are also created a special end cap display for that event.

Anna Kiss plans to go to a meeting at Montessori High School related to student internships in the community. She encouraged other members to attend.

Schedule of meetings: The next meeting of the Board is at 6:15 pm, Wednesday, October 21. The Finance Committee will meet September 25 at 12:30 pm. On Friday October 2, the Membership Committee will meet at noon, the Board Change Committee will meet at 12:30 pm, and Personnel Committee will meet at 1:15 pm.

On September 15 and October 10 five CWRU student volunteers will come to the Co-op to help clean.

Old Business: The Board voted unanimously to invite Denise Dameron to be a member of the Board.

Anna reported that Genna Petrolla, manager of the Visitor Center wants to meet with her regarding the Greater Circle Living Initiative.

New Business: Member meeting is scheduled for October 8.

Announcements: Pat Needham will follow-up on the Cleveland Greenhouse Project sponsored by the Botanical Gardens.

Respectfully submitted,

Sam Richmond
Secretary to the Board of Directors