Minutes of the Tuesday, September 28, 2021 Park Slope Food Coop General Meeting
(to be presented for approval at the next General Meeting)

The monthly General Meeting of the Park Slope Food Coop was held on Tuesday, September 28, 2021, beginning at 7:10 p.m., using the internet communications platform Zoom. All votes were taken using Simply Voting software. Several weeks beforehand, an announcement about the scheduled meeting and the agenda was posted on the PSFC website, foodcoop.com, inviting members to sign up to attend and participate. A Zoom link to the meeting, along with the agenda, financial statements and the previous month's GM minutes were sent by email to attendees about an hour before the meeting. A separate email with the Simply Voting login information was sent to the attendees around the same time. The meeting materials were also sent out to members in an email a few days before the meeting. During the meeting, the chair committee secretary used the Zoom chat to report that attendance reached 170 people.

Chair Committee Introduction to the Meeting
The meeting chair Maribeth Batcha introduced the meeting format and explained the protocol for asking questions, making comments and voting. Chair Committee member Charlie Rogers assisted as chair secretary.

Open Forum
Member Susan Metz asked a question regarding making materials related to a proposal available for member review prior to the meeting where it will be considered. General Coordinator Ann Herpel responded to Susan's question. A member named Judy raised a question regarding situations that may require calling for an emergency Coop meeting. Member Bart made an announcement about a product carried by the Coop. Member Mrs. Tannis asked about restarting Coop Childcare. General Manager Joe Holtz responded to Mrs. Tannis' question.

Treasurer's Report
Treasurer Joe Holtz presented a report, referring to a 23-page financial report, which had been made available to attendees via email before the meeting, as well as shown on Zoom during the meeting. Member Nils Mellquist asked about the current cash balance and strategies to raise capital. Member Mitzie Rothzeid raised questions concerning temporary workstaff. Member Mike Hotz provided ideas for restarting new member orientations. Member Janet Stateman raised concerns about rumors concerning the Coop on Facebook. Joe responded to member questions and comments.

Reports from the General Coordinators
Elinoar Astrinsky made a report on the current state of product shortages caused by supplier warehouse and trucking labor shortages. Member Pritha RaySircar asked about the availability of body care products. Member Ashley raised a question concerning ways to assist refugees find work. Elinoar responded to member questions.

Committee Reports
Equity Access and Community Committee member Paul Warren made a report regarding the committee's work during the pandemic. Member Nils Mellquist made a report on behalf of the Pension Education Reporting Committee concerning their work during the pandemic. Labor

Committee Member Eric Frumin provided information on how to join the committee. International Trade Education Squad member Bart took the floor to explain how to join the committee.

Agenda item 1 – Election: Hearing Officers Committee

Hearing Officers Committee Member Marian Hertz presented the item and introduced Jacob Heyman-Kantor and Catherine McCaw, who were both running to be reelected to the committee. Both candidates addressed the meeting. Member George Olken asked questions regarding the number of hearings that occur, how the meetings are run, how decisions are made and how many people were on the committee. Paul Warren asked for information on the diversity of the committee. Catherine and Marion responded to member questions. The members voted. Later in the meeting the results were announced by the chair: Catherine McCaw was reelected to the Hearing Officers Committee for a 3-year term, with 84 yes votes and 8 no votes. Jacob Heyman-Kantor was reelected to the Hearing Officers Committee for a 3-year term, with 82 yes votes and 8 no votes.

Agenda item 2 – Proposal: Hudson Valley Farm Coop Committee report on its committee structure and procedures

Hudson Valley Farm Coop Committee (HVFCC) Member Teresa Santamaria introduced the item, referring to an outline of the committee's report, which was shared on Zoom, and submitted for the minutes:

September 28, 2021

PSFC Hudson Valley Farm Coop Committee (HVFCC) GM Presentation on Committee Structure and Reporting

Co-sponsors: Joe Holtz, Jonathan Farber, Kubi Ackerman, Naila Siddiqui, Onika Abraham, Rebecca Stronger, and Teresa Santamaria

Member feedback regarding Committee Structure and Reporting at the July 2021 GM focusedon two main topics: transparency and committee membership. This outline addresses the concerns and comments we heard at that meeting.

1. **Transparency** -- The success of the HVFCC hinges on our ability to attract shareholders and co-sponsors in the public, private and nonprofit sectors who will provide access to evengreater numbers of investors. PSFC members are everywhere; there is a role for all of us toencourage support within our communities, jobs, religious and cultural organizations, and elsewhere. This is the great leverage the PSFC. The Committee will see to it that PSFC members are kept well informed to promote the Farm Cooperative that will help build safer, saner, and more sustainable local farm and food systems.

   We will:

1.1. Report to the GM on our progress at least quarterly (4x per year).

1.2. Include a link to the HVFCC on the PSFC website in the section titled "Coop Initiatives"and we will post regularly about our progress and meeting dates and times.

1.3. Open the first half-hour of meetings of the full committee to interested PSFC members.Meeting dates will be posted with sufficient notice at least bi-monthly on the PSFC website along with contact information.

2. **Committee Membership** -- The HVFCC was approved at the April 2021 GM with the statedprovisions that proposal sponsors, including the General Manger of the PSFC, will interview and select a diversity of members with skills in agriculture, community organizing, planning, business management, real estate finance, law, construction, and other related skills; and decisions to approve new members would be made by simple majority vote with a quorum requirement. We chose this method because our committee is not mission critical for the Food Coop; it will take less GM time than votes for each individual member; it allows committee members to focus on their tasks, and it will increase our flexibility to recruit and replace members with the skills we require similarly to how other PSFC committees operate.

   We will:

   2.1. Introduce HVFCC members during the GM Committee Reports section.

   2.2. Provide biographies for all Committee members on the PSFC website.

   2.3. Recruit members during Committee Reports to the GM, in listings posted on PSFCwebsite, in ads in the *Linewaiters' Gazette;* and by other means.

HVFCC Members Joe Holtz, Jonathan Farber, Kubi Ackerman, Naila Siddiqui, Rebecca Stronger and Onika Abraham addressed the meeting. Member Cheyenna Weber asked for information on how the project of the committee would personally benefit committee members and the time frame of the project. Member Jennifer asked for information on the Coop's standards on reporting requirements for committees. Teresa and Jonathan responded to member questions. Jonathan moved that, "The Hudson Valley Farm Coop Committee makes a proposal that our presentation on structure and reporting as required by the 2005 guidance document be approved," which was seconded. The meeting debated the proposal. Paul Warren expressed his concerns about the project. The chair reported that Susan Metz wanted to raise a point of order that the item was a discussion, not a proposal; this was dismissed by the chair as incorrect. Member Jennifer Snyder and another Jennifer spoke in favor of the project. Elinoar Astrinsky expressed her view that member questions concerning how the project will benefit committee

members had not been adequately addressed. Member Vilma Farkas expressed support of the project. The members voted on the proposal. Later in the meeting, the chair reported the meeting approved the HVFCC report on its structure, with 74 yes votes and 40 no votes.

Agenda item 3 – Discussion: Improving the Virtual General Meeting

George Olken introduced the item, referring to a slide presentation titled, "How to Democratize the GM." Members George Olken, Mari Stein, Helen Beichel, David Moss, Joe Holtz, Paul Warren, Charlie Rogers, Christhian, Jen Epstein, Ken Garson, Lisa G. and Ann Herpel participated in the discussion. The discussion touched on the GMs goals of participation, transparency and accessibility, whether Zoom webinar or meeting format is best for the GM, maintaining a sense of community, providing tech support to members who need it, using Zoom polls, whether or not the Zoom chat function or another method of allowing chat should be enabled, expanding options for participating in decision making and why most members do not attend the GM.

Presentation of Minutes

Coop secretary Elizabeth Tobier presented the August 31, 2021 GM minutes, which were approved by general consent.

Board of Directors' Meeting

The Board of Directors' meeting convened, chaired by Bill Penner. Four board members were present to vote at the meeting: Joe Holtz, Bill Penner, Imani Q'ryn and Allen Zimmerman. Viren Mehta was present at the GM, but technical difficulties prevented his participation in voting during the board meeting. Shayna Moliver was not in attendance. All members of the board present voted in favor of accepting the advice of the members on the minutes of the August 31, 2021 GM. All members of the board present voted in favor of accepting the advice of the members on agenda item 1: Hearing Officers Committee Election. All members of the board present voted in favor of accepting the advice of the members on agenda item 2: Hudson Valley Farm Coop Committee report on its committee structure and procedures.

The meeting adjourned the meeting at 9:37 p.m.

Elizabeth Tobier, Secretary
Park Slope Food Coop
Brooklyn, NY
October 1, 2021

If you would like to receive the minutes emailed to you as soon as they have been drafted, please request this by writing to psfc.gm.minutes@gmail.com. Corrections to the minutes can be sent to psfc.gm.minutes@gmail.com until the day before the next General Meeting. They can also be made by using the raise hand button when the minutes are presented at the meeting.