

## **Minutes of the Tuesday, January 31, 2023 Park Slope Food Coop General Meeting**

The monthly General Meeting of the Park Slope Food Coop was held on Tuesday, January 31, 2023, beginning at 7:10 p.m., and was conducted using the internet communications platform Zoom. Several weeks beforehand, an announcement about the scheduled meeting and the agenda were 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 meeting materials, were sent by email to members about an hour before the meeting. Chair Committee members Charlie Rogers and David Moss acted as chair and chair secretary. At 7:52 p.m., when discussion of agenda item #1 began, 116 members were in attendance.

### **Open Forum**

Suggestions raised by members included posting information on store shelves about the recent Consumer Affairs' findings of lead and cadmium in certain brands of chocolate, and having all members working in the store wear name tags. Member concerns raised included the *Linewaiters' Gazette* editors' continuance of their word limits on letter submissions from the days when it was printed, and whether a ceramic coffee filter made in China contained lead.

### **Financial Report and General Coordinators Reports**

General Manager and treasurer Joe Holtz presented a financial report, referring to notes and statements at 48 weeks into the fiscal year, which had been distributed before the meeting. Member questions included whether member labor could replace certain duties now done by staff, how shrinkage at the Coop compared with other food coops, and whether the Coop is taking advantage of high interest rates to invest cash. The meeting discussed the issues raised. General Coordinator Elinoar Astrinsky made a report concerning the year-end inventory count that had taken place the previous Sunday, and announcements of staff departures and new hires.

### **Committee Reports**

Labor Committee member Annabelle Heckler made an announcement concerning the committee's search for new members. Animal Welfare Committee member Kama Einhorn made a report concerning the product guides the committee has posted in the store to inform shoppers about the living and slaughter conditions of the farmed animals involved in products sold at the Coop.

### **Agenda item 1 – Discussion – Coop Mark-up**

Speaking on behalf of all five General Coordinators, Joe Holtz introduced the item, referring to a PowerPoint slide show, and the meeting raised questions and engaged in discussion. The item description published in the distributed meeting announcement reads:

*Part 1: Maintain the base mark-up of 25% through Fiscal Year 2024 which begins on 01/30/2023, except as outlined below in Parts 2 & 3.*

*Part 2: Starting on 04/01/2023 a lower base mark-up of 21% will only be available to those members who qualify for the reduced Member/Owner Equity Investment (MOEI). Members who qualify for the reduced MOEI but are not currently enrolled will need to provide valid proof of*

*eligibility in order to pay prices based on the 21% base mark-up. Information about reduced MOEI is available on foodcoop.com or in the Membership Office.*

*Part 3: Each year at the October General Meeting, the GCs shall report on plans to lower or maintain the 25% base mark-up for the next fiscal year based on the state of the Coop's finances. The GCs shall have the authority to set the base mark-up no higher than 25% and require GM approval to increase the mark-up above 25%.*

*Part 4: Passage of this proposal makes void the August 2020 decision regarding the mark-up.*

**Agenda item 2 – Discussion – Amy's Kitchen**

Labor Committee member Eric Frumin introduced the item, referring to a PowerPoint slide show, and the meeting raised questions and engaged in discussion. The item description published in the distributed meeting announcement reads:

*PSFC should send a letter to Amy's requesting that Amy's commit to neutrality in regard to any union-organizing activities at the home factory in Santa Rosa, CA, and in all other current and future facilities, including their planned expansion into New York. Absent that commitment, the Coop will oppose Amy's expansion into New York.*

**Presentation of Minutes**

Coop secretary Elizabeth Tobier presented the minutes of the November 29, 2022 General Meeting, which had been distributed to members before the meeting. The meeting approved the minutes by general consent.

**Board of Directors' Meeting**

The Board of Directors' meeting was chaired by Brandon West. All board members were present: Joe Holtz, Viren Mehta, Shayna Moliver, Bill Penner, Imani Q'ryn and Brandon West. All members of the board voted in favor of accepting the advice of the members on the minutes of the November 29, 2022 General Meeting.

The chair adjourned the meeting at 9:05 p.m.



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Elizabeth Tobier, Secretary  
Park Slope Food Coop  
Brooklyn, NY  
February 9, 2023  
(Approved by the February 28, 2023 PSFC GM)