

Minutes of the Tuesday, June 30, 2020 Park Slope Food Coop General Meeting

The monthly General Meeting of the Park Slope Food Coop was held on Tuesday, June 30, 2020, beginning at 7:17 p.m., and was conducted using the internet communications platform Zoom. Several weeks beforehand, an announcement about the scheduled meeting was posted on the PSFC website, foodcoop.com, inviting members to sign up to attend and participate. The agenda and other materials referred to during the meeting were made available to members who signed up before the meeting, and a Zoom link to the meeting was sent by email to members at 6:15 p.m. on the day of the meeting.

Chair Committee Introduction to the Meeting

Chair Committee member Josef Szenda introduced the meeting format and explained the protocol for asking questions during the meeting. Chair Committee member Imani Q'ryn assisted as chair secretary.

Reports from the General Coordinators

General Manager and Treasurer Joe Holtz addressed the meeting to present a Financial Report, referring to the 16-Week Preliminary Statement and Statement Highlights for the period ending 5/24/20, which had been circulated prior to the meeting and shared via Zoom. The chair opened the floor for member questions on the financial report presentation. General Coordinator Elinoar Astrinsky addressed the meeting to give products and facilities reports and to broadcast a video on the new ways bulk foods are displayed in the store. The chair opened the floor for member questions on the products and facilities reports. General Coordinator Jessica Robinson addressed the meeting on the topic of member services that are available via the foodcoop.com website.

Diversity and Equality Committee announcement

Paul Warren of the Diversity and Equality Committee addressed the meeting to invite all members to a Zoom meeting discussion titled, "White Now," scheduled for Thursday, July 2, 2020.

Discussion item 1: PSFC Statement in Support of Black Lives Matter

Member Toisha Tucker addressed the meeting to introduce the item and to present a draft statement for consideration, "The Park Slope Food Coop unequivocally supports Black lives and the dismantling of all systems that propagate and empower systemic racism #BlackLives Matter." The chair made the floor available for comments and questions on the discussion item.

Discussion item 2: Coop Financial Stability

Board member Sukey Tamarkin addressed the meeting to introduce the item submitted on behalf of the Board of Directors; "Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Coop has had to decrease shopping hours, restrict shoppers to maintain social distancing, and abandon the member-labor model. This pivot has placed the Coop, like many small businesses, in financial jeopardy. Government and member loan programs, plus increased member investments, are some solutions, but we need to discuss more and better ways to increase our financial solvency. This agenda item will inform member-owners of the Coop's current financial stance, to gather ideas and concerns about moving forward." The chair opened the floor for comments and questions on the item.

Motion to adopt draft PSFC Statement in Support of Black Lives Matter

The chair recognized member Mark Dow, who addressed the meeting to move “Per the poll results on the topic and notwithstanding any bylaws or rules, the meeting adopts the PSFC Statement in Support of Black Lives Matter as drafted by Toisha Tucker as an official PSFC statement or will take another poll now to vote on the item.” Mark asked for a second on the motion. The chair did not take up the motion, as the indicated meeting agenda item was a discussion item, not a proposal. Mark raised a Point of Order, as he noted that several members had seconded his motion. The chair did not take up the motion, as all Coop members must be notified about proposals items before any meeting of the membership. The chair opened the floor for comments.

Polls conducted during the meeting

9 polls were conducted at various times during the meeting. The results of each poll were made available to the meeting:

- 1) **Are you planning to increase your owner / member investment?**
 22% Yes
 13% No
 65% I have already done it
- 2) **If you are planning to increase your owner / member investment, how much are you considering?**
 42% \$1 - \$100
 37% \$100 - \$200
 11% \$200 - \$300
 10% \$400 or more
- 3) **Where are you currently residing, and do you shop at the Coop?**
 78% In Brooklyn and I shop at the Coop
 5% Within the 5 boroughs and I shop at the Coop
 2% Outside the 5 boroughs, but travel to the Coop to shop
 6% I have temporarily or permanently moved and do not shop at the Coop
 11% I do not shop at the Coop for safety reasons
- 4) **For Coop members that are out of the area and not shopping, are you planning to return in the foreseeable future?**
 91% Yes
 9% No
- 5) **Would you be willing to support a statement regarding Black Lives Matter?**
 95% Yes
 5% No
- 6) **Would you be willing to come back to work at the Coop for FTOP credit? Working would be voluntary, and members would be required to maintain social distancing and follow all Coop safety protocols.**
 63% Yes
 37% No
- 7) **Would you support a temporary 2% to 4% increase to our markup to help secure the Coop's finances? A 3% increase, for example would add \$3 to a \$100 grocery purchase.**

78% Yes

22% No

8) Shopping safety at the Coop?

79% I shop at the Coop and believe that the Coop is working to maintain my safety while in the store

5% I shop at the Coop and believe that the Coop could be doing more to maintain my safety in the store

16% I have chosen not to shop at the Coop at this time for safety reasons

9) Would you be willing to work longer than 2.75 hours?

50% Yes

50% No

Presentation of Minutes

The minutes of the May 26, 2020 General Meeting were presented by Board member Bill Penner, who asked that any corrections be submitted via Zoom chat.

Board of Directors' Meeting

Board member Bill Penner announced that all board members were present, including Imani Q'ryn, Allen Zimmerman, Joe Holtz, Rachel Asher and Susannah Tamarkin. All members of the board voted in favor of accepting the advice of the members on the minutes of the May 26, 2020 General Meeting. Bill addressed the meeting on the GM discussion item 1, stating that the Board members will be attending to the item further in a meeting scheduled the following day.

The chair adjourned the meeting at 9:15 p.m.



Elizabeth Tobier, acting secretary

Park Slope Food Coop

Brooklyn, NY

July 1, 2020

(Approved by the July 28, 2020 PSFC GM)

