

Minutes of the Tuesday, July 28, 2020 Park Slope Food Coop General Meeting

The monthly General Meeting of the Park Slope Food Coop was held on Tuesday, July 28, 2020, beginning at 7:15 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. 341 members attended the meeting.

Chair Committee Introduction to the Meeting

Chair Committee member Maribeth Batcha introduced the meeting format and explained the protocol for asking questions, making comments and voting using the Zoom poll feature during the meeting, referring to a handout the Chair Committee composed and made available to attendees. Chair Committee member David Moss 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 20-Week Preliminary Statement and Statement Highlights for the period ending 6/21/20, 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 a food and facilities report. The chair opened the floor for member questions on the food and facilities report.

Agenda item 1 - Proposal: PSFC Statement in Support of Black Lives Matter

The chair explained meeting procedures on handling and voting on proposal items. Members Toisha Tucker, Summer Stephanos, Hayley Gorenberg and Trish Adobea Tchume addressed the meeting to introduce the proposal. The chair opened the floor for questions. The chair opened the floor for a formal motion on the item. Toisha made a motion on the statement, “The Park Slope Food Coop unequivocally supports Black lives and the dismantling of all systems that propagate and empower systemic racism #BlackLivesMatter.” The motion was seconded. The chair opened the floor to debate on the item. Member Maitefa Angaza proposed an amendment on behalf of the PSFC Diversity and Equality Committee, “The Park Slope Food Coop unequivocally supports Black lives and the dismantling of all systems that propagate and empower systemic racism. #BlackLivesMatter. We endorse the insistence on systemic change to the racist policies and practices infecting our nation. This chilling climate enables brutal and murderous policing, gross intersectional inequities in healthcare, education and housing, and economic and political disenfranchisement of Black people. We decry the entrenched injustices that have led, over centuries, to these egregious conditions and we condemn the cruel apathy with which they have been regarded by too many for too long. At the same time, we are uplifted by the spirit and demonstration of resistance invoked in recent protests across the nation and the changes they have begun to inspire. As a cooperative entity, we pledge to expand our efforts to amplify the voices and perspectives of our Black members. We will devise measures to protect and to bolster the agency of these members. This will include enhancing the role of the Diversity and Equality Committee, which provides internal education on equity and inclusion, represents members in cases of alleged bias and racism here at the Coop, and works toward food justice through access to our healthy and affordable stock for those most in need. The Park Slope Food Coop recognizes that internal action is a best practice toward making a difference and we commit to being the change our membership must see.” The chair made the floor

available for objections to the amendment item. An objection was raised. The chair made the floor available for a second on the amendment item. The amendment item was seconded. The chair opened the floor for a debate on the amendment item. The chair opened the floor for a vote on the amendment item, which failed, with 17% in favor and 83% against (46, yes. 225, no). The chair opened the floor for a vote on the proposal, "The Park Slope Food Coop unequivocally supports Black lives and the dismantling of all systems that propagate and empower systemic racism #BlackLivesMatter," which passed, with 96% in favor and 4% against (260, yes. 10, no). The chair also reported a vote result on the proposal item by members participating by phone of 6 in favor and 2 against.

Motion to extend meeting

The chair opened the floor to a vote on extending the meeting to 9:45 p.m., which succeeded, with 83% in favor and 17% against (218, yes. 45, no).

Agenda item 2 - Discussion: Temporarily Raise the Markup at the Coop from 21% to 25% while Member Labor is Suspended

General Coordinator Joe Szladek and Receiving Coordinator Margie Lempert introduced the item, "The Coop should temporarily raise its markup from 21% to 25% to help cover both the added expense of running the Coop with temporary labor and diminished sales as a result of Covid-19." The chair opened the floor for comments and questions on the item.

Presentation of Minutes

The chair opened the floor for the presentation of the minutes of the June 30, 2020 General Meeting, which had been made available to meeting attendees. Acting secretary Elizabeth Tobier asked the meeting for any corrections to the minutes.

Board of Directors' Meeting

The chair opened the floor for the Board of Directors meeting, chaired by Allen Zimmerman. All board members were present: Rachel Asher, Joe Holtz, Bill Penner, Imani Q'ryn. Susannah Tamarkin and Allen Zimmerman. All members of the board voted in favor of accepting the advice of the members on the minutes of the June 30, 2020 General Meeting. All members of the board voted in favor of accepting the advice of the members on the proposal item, "PSFC Statement in Support of Black Lives Matter."

Diversity and Equality Committee announcement

Paul Warren of the Diversity and Equality Committee addressed the meeting to invite all members to a Zoom workshop hosted by the DEC on experiences of bias at the PSFC scheduled for Wednesday, July 29, 2020.

The chair adjourned the meeting at 9:48 p.m.



Elizabeth Tobier, acting secretary
Park Slope Food Coop
Brooklyn, NY
August 12, 2020

(Approved by the August 25, 2020 PSFC GM)