

Minutes of the Tuesday, August 31, 2021 Park Slope Food Coop General Meeting

The monthly General Meeting of the Park Slope Food Coop was held on Tuesday, August 31, 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. At 7:59 p.m. the chair committee secretary used the Zoom chat to report that attendance at that point in the meeting was 127 people.

Chair Committee Introduction to the Meeting

The meeting chair Josef Szende introduced the meeting format and explained the protocol for asking questions, making comments and voting. Chair Committee member David Moss assisted as chair secretary.

Open Forum

Member Susan Metz' audio did not work, so she used the Zoom chat to pose a question, "Where can the documents to be presented for a vote be posted for the month previous to that GM so that members can be prepared for the presentation for a vote and participate fully?" General Coordinator Ann Herpel responded to Susan's question by typing in the Zoom chat, "Susan, documents regarding a vote can be sent to me and we would send them along with the invitation to the Coop and the zoom link. Members would be able to see them in advance of the meeting."

Member Helen Beichel posed questions concerning new member recruitment. Member Elizabeth Tobier asked about including Committee Reports during the meeting. The chair responded to Elizabeth's question. Member Elizabeth Readknauer inquired about the general coordinators' consideration of threats posed by the Covid-19 Delta variant. Member Nina Pearlman posed a question concerning when bulk foods that were not already bagged would be offered at the store again. Member Jen Epstein inquired about the general coordinators' plans for starting up new member orientations. General Manager Joe Holtz responded to member questions.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Joe Holtz presented a Powerpoint slide show titled, "Park Slope Food Coop Analysis, 24-week period ending 7/18/21, Focus on Covid-19." Then, Joe continued his report, referring to a 21-page financial report, which had been made available to attendees via email before the meeting, as well as shown on Zoom during the meeting. The chair opened the floor for questions on the financial report. Member George O asked about whether the return of member labor was helping the Coop. Member Rodger Parsons inquired about whether the Coop planned to implement a vaccine requirement. Member Rachel Porter asked about the possibility of immediately increasing store hours and restarting new member recruitment. Jen Epstein asked for more information on the financial report's statement that the Coop lost at least 4,000 members during the pandemic. Joe responded to member questions.

Reports from the General Coordinators

Joe Holtz addressed the meeting and shared his screen to provide information on a revision to the June 2021 Coop Annual Meeting election voting results. This is what he shared:

Candidate	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Frank Bradshaw	353	131	230
Timothy Hospodar	153	239	322
Viren Mehta	368	103	242
Tomek Miernowski	68	292	354
Shayna Moliver	354	127	233

Report to the August 31, 2021 General Meeting.

Above is a copy of the tabulation of the Board of Directors election per the approved minutes of the June 29th, 2021 PSFC Annual Meeting.

On Saturday night August 7th 2021, nine envelopes with paper proxy ballots were discovered in the Membership Office. Below is the revised tabulation that took place on Tuesday afternoon August 10th, 2021. The counting of the uncounted proxy ballots was done by 5 people, 4 of whom were present in the Coop's meeting room and 1 attending by zoom. Present in the room were Coop Vice-President Imani Q'ryn who is also a member of the GM Chair Committee, Charlie Rodgers of the GM Chair Committee, Membership Coordinator Annette Laskaris and General Manager Joe Holtz. Coop President Bill Penner attended via Zoom.

Below is a copy of the revised tabulation of the Board of Directors election which includes 8 more votes. 1 ballot was disqualified because it had 3 yes votes. Please note the results of election did not change due to the inclusion of these heretofore missing ballots.

Candidate	yes	no	abstain
Viren Mehta	372	103	244
Shayna Moliver	359	128	233
Frank Bradshaw	356	133	231
Timothy Hospodar	155	240	323
Tomek Miernowski	69	294	356

After Joe's report, Rachel Porter made a statement regarding the Coop's problems with voting.

Ann Herpel made a report on the return of member labor, using merchandise and bottle return credits at checkout lanes, the store's mask policy, changes to new member orientations, and why the GM does not now include committee reports. Member Beth Ruck offered a suggestion to help recruit new members. Member Judy Janda inquired about how the Coop's squad concept would be conveyed to new members. Helen Beichel made comments in regard to new member orientations. Member Ellen Simon made a suggestion regarding offering delivery and personal shopping at the Coop. Ann responded to member questions and comments.

Committee Reports

International Trade Education Squad member Bart made a report on the committee's activism to provide vaccines to people internationally.

Agenda item 1 – Election: Hearing Administration Committee

Hearing Administration Committee Member April Agostino presented the item, explaining the purpose of the committee and introducing Member and Election Candidate Dominique Bravo. Dominique addressed the meeting. Rachel Porter asked a question concerning how the hearing process can be improved. Both April and Dominique responded to the question. The members voted. Later in the meeting the results were announced by the chair: Dominique Bravo was elected to the Hearing Administration Committee, with 70 yes votes and 3 no votes.

Agenda item 2 – Election: Filling the Open Pension Plan Trustee Position

General Coordinator and Pension Plan Administrator Lisa Moore introduced the item and Pension Plan Trustee Joe Holtz explained the duties of the Trustees. Coop Bookkeeping Coordinator and Pension Plan Trustee candidate Terry Meyers addressed the meeting. There were no member questions. The members voted. Later in the meeting

the results were announced by the chair: Terry Meyers was elected Pension Plan Trustee, with 77 yes votes and 1 no vote.

Presentation of Minutes

Coop secretary Elizabeth Tobier presented the July 27, 2021 GM minutes, which were approved by general consent.

Open Forum

The meeting engaged in open forum while the GM awaited the results of the elections. Member Mitzie Rothzeit made an inquiry about signing up for workslots. Joe Holtz responded to the question. Environmental Committee Member Barb Hertel made an announcement about the committee's search for new members.

Board of Directors' Meeting

The Board of Directors' meeting convened, chaired by Bill Penner. Five board members were present: Joe Holtz, Shayna Moliver, Bill Penner, Imani Q'ryn and Allen Zimmerman. Viren Mehta 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 July 27, 2021 GM. All members of the board present voted in favor of accepting the advice of the members on agenda item 1, Hearing Administration Committee Election. All members of the board present voted in favor of accepting the advice of the members on agenda item 2, Pension Plan Trustee Election.

Meeting Evaluation

The chair opened the floor for comments on how the meeting was run. Member Beth Ruck expressed her thoughts on getting more member input to solve Coop problems. Nona offered her thoughts on the way the meeting was handled.

The meeting adjourned the meeting at 8:55 p.m.



Elizabeth Tobier, Secretary
Park Slope Food Coop
Brooklyn, NY
September 3, 2021
(Approved by the September 28, 2021 PSFC GM)