

Minutes of the Tuesday, October 26, 2021 Park Slope Food Coop General Meeting

The monthly General Meeting of the Park Slope Food Coop was held on Tuesday, October 26, 2021, beginning at 7:09 p.m., using the internet communications platform Zoom. For the election item on the agenda, members voted 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 right before the meeting. A separate email with the Simply Voting login information was sent to the attendees about 6:15 p.m. that evening. The meeting materials were also sent out to members in an email a few days before the meeting. The chair announced that 95 members were in attendance at 7:09 p.m.

Chair Committee Introduction to the Meeting

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

Open Forum

Member Rachel Porter made suggestions regarding the current protocol for shopping at the store and for signing up to attend a General Meeting. Member Nicole Marie made a suggestion about creating another member survey on the subject of face covering requirements at the Coop. Members Lisa G, Tonya Taylor and Baruch Weisman made comments concerning the wearing of face coverings at the Coop. Member Richard Schall raised his concerns regarding members who wait on lines in the store to checkout. General Coordinators Joe Holtz and Ann Herpel responded to member comments.

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 David Bartner inquired about the possibility of increasing shopping hours. Member Bart DeCoursy raised a suggestion regarding the delay in receiving from the IRS the amount due the Coop for Employee Retention Credits. Member Mitzie Rothzeid inquired about financial worst-case scenarios for the Coop. Member Leonard Polletta asked for more information on members who have left the Coop and the plans for restarting new member orientations. Joe responded to member questions and comments.

Reports from the General Coordinators

General Coordinator Elinoar Astrinsky made a report on new work shifts, the dates of the new work cycle, shopping suggestions, and food news. Member Geri Fitzgerald inquired about the possibility of allowing members to sign up for shifts a month or longer in advance of when they will occur. Rachel Porter expressed concerns about the slow progress of implementing changes that would restore Coop operations to the way it was before the pandemic. Elinoar responded to member questions and comments.

Committee Reports

GM Chair Committee member Josef Szende gave a report that included the plan to try Zoom meeting format and other Zoom features, such as polling at the November 2021 GM. International Trade Education Squad member Bart DeCoursy gave a report concerning Covid-19 vaccine availability internationally. Labor Committee Member Eric Frumin gave a report on the Fair Food Program.

Agenda item 1 – Election: Hearing Administration Committee

This item was not taken up.

Agenda item 2 – Election: Agenda Committee

Agenda Committee member Cynthia Payne introduced the item, explaining the role of the committee and the skills needed to work on it. The Agenda Committee candidates Fran Hawthorne, Kate Spota and Pirco Wolfframm were all running for reelection. Each addressed the meeting and answered questions concerning how the committee put the agenda together and related matters, before the meeting voted. The election results: Fran Hawthorne received 70 yes votes and 1 no vote; she was reelected to the Agenda Committee for a 3-year term. Kate Spota received 71 yes votes and 1 no vote; she was reelected to the Agenda Committee for a 3-year term. Pirco Wolfframm received 72 yes votes and 1 no vote; she was reelected to the Agenda Committee for a 3-year term.

Agenda item 3 – Discussion: Parental Leave

Member David Bartner introduced the item, which concerned giving parents greater latitude on when they could get parental leave from the work slot requirement. Members discussed the idea.

Presentation of Minutes

Coop secretary Elizabeth Tobier presented the September 28, 2021 GM minutes, which were approved as corrected by general consent.

Board of Directors' Meeting

The Board of Directors' meeting convened, chaired by Allen Zimmerman. All six board members were present to vote at the meeting: Joe Holtz, Viren Mehta, Shayna Moliver, Bill Penner, Imani Q'ryn and Allen Zimmerman. All members of the board voted in favor of accepting the advice of the members on the minutes of the September 28, 2021 GM. All members of the board voted in favor of accepting the advice of the members on agenda item 2: Agenda Committee Election.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.



Elizabeth Tobier, Secretary
Park Slope Food Coop
Brooklyn, NY
October 28, 2021
(Approved by the November 30, 2021 PSFC GM)