

Minutes of the Tuesday, November 30, 2021 Park Slope Food Coop General Meeting

The monthly General Meeting of the Park Slope Food Coop was held on Tuesday, November 30, 2021, beginning at 7:10 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, agenda item reference materials and the previous month's GM minutes were sent by email to meeting attendees about an hour before the meeting. About the same time, a separate email with the Simply Voting login information was sent to meeting attendees. The meeting materials were also sent out to members in an email a few days before the meeting. Near the end of the meeting, the chair typed into the Zoom Chat function that attendance varied between 100 and 130 members.

Chair Committee Introduction to the Meeting

The meeting chair, Dan Hegwood, 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

The members discussed the launch of the new member recruitment process that began on November 29, ideas about increasing outreach to potential new members, making staff information and in-store identification easier, the possibility of resuming the use of a physical space for General Meetings, criticism of the current protocol of initialing a statement online when signing up to attend a GM, and whether the temporary price markup takes away from the Coop's competitive edge.

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. Questions and discussion that followed went into increasing store hours, store capacity and checkout stations, and developing member recruitment targets.

Reports from the General Coordinators

General Coordinator Joe Szladek made a report on the new work cycle, member labor needs, store hours increases, how the Coop deals with product shortages by juggling suppliers and special deals on certain store products. Member comments and discussion followed the report, including suggestions on a proactive way to avert lost sales when members can't find what they want, possible automation of restocking some items, and an entrance area posting of product "highlights of the week."

Committee Reports

Michael Szeto of the Dispute Resolution Committee made a report to describe the kinds of cases that have arisen in the past 18 months. International Trade Education Squad member Helen Beichel gave a report concerning Covid-19 home tests for sale at the Coop, committee discussion of a NYC health department Covid-19 vaccine bus being stationed in front of the Coop and news on Covid-19 vaccine availability internationally. General Coordinator Elinor Astrinsky spoke to the ITES report, to clarify that the street in front of the Coop is for drive through and delivery vehicle use only.

Agenda item 1 – Election: Agenda Committee

Agenda Committee member Pirco Wolfframm introduced the item, explaining the role of the committee. Agenda Committee candidate Allie Esslinger addressed the meeting before the election was held. Allie Esslinger, who received 108 yes votes and 3 no votes, was elected to a 3-year term on the Agenda Committee.

Agenda item 2 – Discussion: Committee Requirements

Member Rachel Porter introduced the item, which concerned reviewing and improving the ways in which Coop committees make themselves available and accountable to the larger membership. The meeting discussed the item.

Agenda item 3 – Proposal: Preparing for the Return of Squad Leaders

Member Susan Metz addressed the meeting and made a motion to table the item, requesting it be rescheduled for the March or April 2022 GM, due to 1) copy errors contained in the published agenda announcement and 2) insufficient time to present the proposal. A vote on whether to table the item was conducted via the Zoom Raise Hand function, resulting in more than half meeting attendees in favor. The item was tabled with a suggestion that it be rescheduled for the March or April 2022 GM.

Presentation of Minutes

Coop secretary Elizabeth Tobier presented the October 26, 2021 GM minutes, which were approved as corrected by general consent.

Board of Directors' Meeting

The Board of Directors' meeting convened, chaired by Shayna Moliver. 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 October 26, 2021 GM. All members of the board voted in favor of accepting the advice of the members on agenda item 1: Agenda Committee Election. All members of the board voted in favor of accepting the advice of the members on agenda item 3: Proposal: Preparing for the Return of Squad Leaders.

The meeting adjourned at 9:09 p.m.



Elizabeth Tobier, Secretary
Park Slope Food Coop
Brooklyn, NY
December 2, 2021
(Approved by the January 25, 2022 PSFC GM)