

Minutes of the Tuesday, January 25, 2022 Park Slope Food Coop General Meeting

The monthly General Meeting of the Park Slope Food Coop was held on Tuesday, January 25, 2022, beginning at 7:09 p.m., using the internet communications platform Zoom. For the proposal 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. Zoom showed that 154 people were in attendance at 8:06 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 Maribeth Batcha assisted as chair secretary.

Open Forum

The members discussed the newly implemented New York City Covid-19 vaccination regulation affecting all workers and volunteers. The members discussed the Coop's increased use of plastic bags in the bulk aisle and concerns about the environmental impact of this. The members discussed when shoppers could begin to make custom product requests from food processing again. The members discussed why the most expensive coffees in the bulk aisle are being pre-bagged.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Joe Holtz spoke to the meeting, referring to a 23-page financial report, which had been made available to attendees via email before the meeting, as well as displayed on Zoom during the meeting. Questions and discussion that followed went into why United Natural Foods, Inc. (UNFI) held back credits due to the Coop for several months, how the Coop will regain sustainability, pension payments, where the Coop's finances stand after all government assistance payments are made, the status of new member recruitment, when members will start working in the basement again, and the status of overtime worked by staff.

Reports from the General Coordinators

General Coordinator Joe Szladek made a report on the upcoming annual year-end inventory count, supply chain disruptions and product highlights.

Committee Reports

Paul Warren of the Equity Access and Community Committee made a report, including web pages being developed to enable members to file complaints, enabling new member access for Spanish speakers, and a proposal on a demographics survey that will be brought to the GM. International Trade Education Squad member Susan Metz gave a report concerning the Vaccines for All Campaign.

Agenda item 1 – Proposal: Committee Requirements

Member Rachel Porter introduced the item, referring to a presentation projected on Zoom. In addition, the proposal was made available to all members within the body of the announced GM agenda. After the meeting discussed the item, Rachel officially proposed that, “my proposal of six points to improve committee reporting to the Coop, plus a seventh point of creating a new committee oversight committee in order to reduce work on staff and increase member knowledge about committee work,” which was seconded. The members debated the proposal. Member Mitzie Rothzeit raised an amendment to remove point six from the proposal item, which was seconded. The members debated amending the proposal to remove point six. Using the “raise hand” function in Zoom, the members voted in favor of amending the proposal to remove point six, with 53 “yes” votes and 26 “no” votes. Thus, the proposal item on the floor was amended. The member voted in favor of the amended proposal item displayed below, with 68 “yes” votes and 38 “no” votes. Thus, the proposal “Committee Requirements” was accepted by the GM.

Proposal: The PSFC routinely depends on and creates new committees. This proposal is intended to improve the way these committees function for and report back to the membership. The proposal includes requirements for existing committees and new committees. Where there is an overlap with the existing document “Structure & Reporting Requirements for New Coop Committees,” the language in this item will take precedence.

Importantly, the proposal is intended to increase the ability of committees to reduce staff work.

1. Committees will be listed on the PSFC website with a brief description of the purpose and activities of the committee. Updates should include the names of committee members. The entries will be behind the firewall, should be updated at least annually, and are the responsibility of the committee members.
 2. Committee members may report 13 shifts per year. Any additional shifts must be approved by the PSFC staff liaison to that committee or by a PSFC General Coordinator. Unapproved work beyond 13 shifts / year will not be given work shift credit and will be considered volunteer work.
 3. Committees must report to the GM at least 1 / year and no more than 3 / year. Reports should not last longer than 3 minutes unless they are part of a proposal or election. Committees that are essential to PSFC functioning will be required to report to the General Meeting at least 2 / year.
 4. Committees will provide updates on their activities in the LWG at least 2 / year. The LWG will create a committee update column where updates can be published.
 5. Committee membership selection will be made transparent in the committee proposal. Criteria for membership will be specified in writing in the committee’s entry on the PSFC website.
 6. This proposal will create a committee oversight committee (of working members) to supervise committee reporting requirements including scheduling updates and tracking work credit.
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Presentation of Minutes

Coop secretary Elizabeth Tobier presented the November 30, 2021 GM minutes, which were approved by general consent.

Board of Directors' Meeting

The Board of Directors' meeting convened, chaired by Bill Penner. 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 November 30, 2021 GM. All members of the board voted in favor of accepting the advice of the members on agenda item 1: Committee Requirements.

The meeting adjourned at 9:32 p.m.



Elizabeth Tobier, Secretary
Park Slope Food Coop
Brooklyn, NY
January 31, 2022
(Approved by the February 22, 2022 PSFC GM)