

Minutes of the Tuesday, April 26, 2022 Park Slope Food Coop General Meeting

The monthly General Meeting of the Park Slope Food Coop was held on Tuesday, April 26, 2022, beginning at 7:11 p.m., using the internet communications platform Zoom. For the proposal item on the agenda, members voted using the Simply Voting platform. 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 and participate. A Zoom link to the meeting, along with relevant meeting materials 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. Zoom displayed that 123 people were in attendance at 8:05 p.m.

Chair Committee Introduction to the Meeting

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

Open Forum

The members posed questions about or discussed issues surrounding the Coop's application process for seeking an exemption to the Covid-19 vaccine mandate, accessing the Coop's Membership Manual and changes in Coop policy on the number of shifts members can sign up for ahead of time.

Treasurer's Report

General Coordinator Joe Szladek presented a financial report, referring to the 18-page annotated set of statements which had been made available to attendees via email before the meeting. Questions and discussion that followed included future capabilities of online ordering and when regularly recurring work squads would begin again.

Reports from the General Coordinators

General Coordinator Elinoar Astrinsky made a report, which included an announcement of staff resignations and new hires, and a product report highlighting plants, flowers, compost and cheese. General Coordinator Ann Herpel made a report, which included an upcoming Fun Committee event at Prospect Park's roller-skating rink, how to view the March 2022 board member election candidates presentations and statements on the Coop's website, the number of weeks in the current Coop work cycle, a change in the number of shifts members can sign up for in advance, a prediction on when recurring shifts will resume and a new flashing green "Next" sign posted at the entrance to alert members awaiting entrance to the store when they may do so. Questions and discussion that followed included when the store could expand shopping hours, ideas about finding ways to use member labor instead of paid-staff labor, training member-leaders, how often the store is at full capacity and the status of Terracycle recycling.

Committee Reports

International Trade Education Squad member Bart DeCoursy gave a report.

Agenda item 1 – Election: Interim Agenda Committee Election

Agenda Committee Member Allie Esslinger introduced candidate Dominique Bravo, who addressed the meeting to discuss her interest in joining the Agenda Committee. Dominique Bravo was elected to a 2-year term on the Agenda Committee, having received 69 yes votes and 3 no votes.

Agenda item 2 – Election: Dispute Resolution Committee Election

Dispute Resolution Committee (DRC) Member Helen Koh introduced the item and provided an overview of the work of the committee. The three DRC members up for re-election addressed the meeting: Grace

Cosachov Protos, Melinda Daniels and Deb Magocsi. Grace Cosachov Protos, Melinda Daniels and Deb Magocsi all received 66 yes votes and 2 no votes; all were re-elected for 3-year terms on the DRC.

Agenda item 3 – Committee Oversight Committee presentation in keeping with Coop specifications outlined in the document “Structure and Reporting Requirements for New Coop Committees”

Committee Oversight Committee (COC) member Rachel Porter introduced the item and presented the report included below, which had been distributed to Coop members prior to the meeting. After discussion and debate, the meeting voted in favor of accepting the COC answers to the questions new committees are required to provide, with 36 yes votes and 27 no votes.

Committee to Oversee Committees

This committee was approved at the General Meeting of the Park Slope Food Coop on January 25, 2022. In keeping with the PSFC requirement, this document answers all of the questions in the document entitled *Structure and Reporting Requirements for New Coop Committees* that specifies what information should be provided to the GM upon formation of a new committee:

<https://www.foodcoop.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/GM-Lit-Committee-Formation.pdf>

Scope

- What is the mission of the group? Supervise all committee reports and requirements including scheduling updates and tracking work credits.
- Does the committee have specific goals, and if so what are they? To oversee the implantation of the proposal Coop Committee Reporting Requirements as approved at the Jan. 25, 2022 GM.
- Does the committee have a goal or final product (for example a report on an issue) in mind? No
- What is the lifespan of the committee (is it a permanent committee or will it be temporary)? Permanent.

Committee Composition

- Will committee members be getting workslot credit? •How many members will the committee have? Yes. Initial number will be 5 with the possibility of going up to 7 if needed.
- How will members be selected to participate in the project (anyone who volunteers, are there some special skills needed)? Initial members will be selected based on a strong ability to organize information, stick to deadlines and maintain impartiality. An ad will go out in the LWG following this meeting. The selection committee will include A General Coordinator, a Membership Coordinator and Rachel Porter (the author of the original proposal).
- Will the membership have the opportunity to know a bit about the people who are on the committee (via the Gazette or the General Meeting? Yes
- Will members be elected by the General Meeting? Yes
- Will there be terms of service? Yes, Three years, staggered through some terms being initially shorter.
- Will there be any sub-committees? No
- Will racial/ethnic diversity within the members on the committee be addressed? Yes

Governance

- What will the committee structure be? There will be a chairperson and a rotating secretary; All members will share all other responsibilities.
- Will members of the committee have positions (like secretary, for example) or not? Yes, see above.
- How will committee votes be decided? By majority or consensus? Votes will be taken as needed and will have to have a supermajority as follows: at least 4/5, 4/6, or 5/7 (depending on committee size) votes to proceed. These percentages will shift based on the number of attendees.

- Is there a minimum number of members from the committee that need to be present for a vote to take place? For example, if the committee has 15 members would you need to have a least 9 people (60% of the total) present for a vote to count? Quorum is 3 to have a committee meeting.
- How often will the committee meet? Monthly initially. Future meeting schedule to be determined as needed.
- When will it meet and where? Initially meetings will be remote. Meeting schedule to be determined.
- Which member of the committee will be the main contact with the Coop staff? The Chairperson.
- How will the committee handle replacing members who leave the committee? Recruit through the LWG and/or announcements at the GM.

Member Participation and Reports to the Membership

- Will the meetings of the committee be open to the General Membership? No, but the committee will maintain an active coop email address and be available to members as part of its purpose.
- How far in advance will the meeting dates be announced? Where will they be announced? N/A
- How often will the committee come back to the GM to report on its progress? 2-3/year
- How will a record of the committee's work be kept? Will someone take minutes? Minutes will be taken and the committee will make regular use of a database that it creates and shares quarterly with the staff liaison, so that Coop staff have access to it.
- How will the committee communicate with the membership -- via the Gazette, via its meetings, via the General Meeting reports and agenda items, via an e-mail address or website? Through the GM, the PSFC website, the LWG and through a dedicated coop email address.

Presentation of Minutes

Coop secretary Elizabeth Tobier presented the March 29, 2022 GM minutes, which were approved by general consent.

Board of Directors' Meeting

The Board of Directors' meeting convened, chaired by Bill Penner. Five board members were present to vote at the meeting: Viren Mehta, Shayna Moliver, Bill Penner, Imani Q'ryn and Allen Zimmerman. Joe Holtz was not in attendance. All members of the board in attendance voted in favor of accepting the advice of the members on the minutes of the March 29, 2022 GM. All members of the board in attendance voted in favor of accepting the advice of the members on agenda item 1: Interim Agenda Committee Election. All members of the board in attendance voted in favor of accepting the advice of the members on agenda item 2: Dispute Resolution Committee Election. All members of the board in attendance voted in favor of accepting the advice of the members on agenda item 3: Committee Oversight Committee presentation.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.



Elizabeth Tobier, Secretary
Park Slope Food Coop
Brooklyn, NY
April 27, 2022
(Approved by the May 31, 2022 PSFC GM)