

Minutes of the Tuesday, May 31, 2022 Park Slope Food Coop General Meeting

The monthly General Meeting of the Park Slope Food Coop was held on Tuesday, May 31, 2022, beginning at 7:08 p.m., using the internet communications platform Zoom. For the election 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 120 people were in attendance at 7:46 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 David Moss assisted as chair secretary.

Open Forum

Open forum topics raised by members included the content of a *Linewaiters' Gazette* letter, a brand of detergent that has not been available in the store lately, increasing the number of walker workslots, a boycott of the Amy's Kitchen brand of products that recently started among some U.S. grocers, clarification on what time General Meetings start, if and when the *Linewaiters' Gazette* would be coming back as a printed paper, and problems getting assistance on the shopping floor when paging out for help.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Joe Holtz presented a financial report, referring to the 18-page annotated set of statements which had been made available to attendees via email the day before the meeting. Questions and discussion that followed included concerns that the temporary price increase currently in place makes the Coop less competitive, whether more member labor and less staff labor could save the Coop money, new member orientations, and understanding why pension expense is listed on the income statement, yet does not appear as a cash flow.

Reports from the General Coordinators

General Coordinator Elinor Astrinsky made a report, which included an announcement of staff resignations, the training taking place of member Team Leaders (formerly known as Squad Leaders), and a product report highlighting some summer fruits and plants currently on the shelves. General Coordinator Ann Herpel made a report, which included a head's-up that members would be getting an email the next day about how to cast a vote by proxy ballot in the Board of Directors Election, how to view the March 2022 board member election candidates presentations and statements on the Coop's website, reduced store hours on Juneteenth and July 4th, and the resumption of recurring workslot shifts coming in August. Questions and discussion that followed included a suggestion about including non-staff member input to a greater degree when making significant changes to Coop operations, and the *Linewaiters' Gazette* squad's decision to move the newsletter online several months ago.

Committee Reports

Orion from the Labor Committee (LC) gave a report that included updates on the Fair Food Program, the LC's correspondence sent to the Amy's Kitchen CEO in April and an upcoming Coop Member Survey the LC expects to make.

Agenda item 1 – Election: Annual Revolving Loan Committee Election

Revolving Loan Committee (RLC) Member Rachel Porter introduced the item and nominated current RLC member Kathy Martino for reelection. Due to illness, Kathy was not present at the GM. Kathy Martino was reelected to a 3-year term on the RLC, having received 57 yes votes and 5 no votes.

Agenda item 2 – Discussion: Preparing for the Return of Squad Leaders

Member Susan Metz led a discussion about reestablishing the Coop's squad system of member labor, presenting a slide show addressing the topic. She provided a QR code to the meeting to allow members to further study the presented material after the meeting. Member discussion included the history of work squads at the Coop, digitizing certain aspects of organizing workers, the value and comradery of squad leaders and squad meetings, some upsides and downsides of FTOP, problem-solving that occurs on squads, the many ways to create a sense of belonging at the Coop, and whether the new work system is or is not so different from old work system.

Presentation of Minutes

Coop secretary Elizabeth Tobier presented the April 26, 2022 GM minutes, which were approved by general consent.

Board of Directors' Meeting

The Board of Directors' meeting convened, chaired by Imani Q'ryn. 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 April 26, 2022 GM. All members of the board voted in favor of accepting the advice of the members on agenda item 1: Annual Revolving Loan Committee Election.

The meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.



Elizabeth Tobier, Secretary

Park Slope Food Coop

Brooklyn, NY

June 2, 2022

(Approved by the June 28, 2022 PSFC GM)