

Minutes of the Tuesday, August 30, 2022 Park Slope Food Coop General Meeting

The monthly General Meeting of the Park Slope Food Coop was held on Tuesday, August 30, 2022, beginning at 7:08 p.m., and was conducted using the internet communications platform Zoom. 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 meeting materials, was sent by email to members about 5:15 p.m. on the day of the meeting. Chair Committee members Dan Hegwood and Charlie Rogers acted as chair and chair secretary. At 8:16 p.m., when discussion of the first agenda item began, 112 members were in attendance.

Open Forum

Topics discussed by members included membership unawareness of Coop matters now that the *Linewaiter's Gazette* has moved online, the Covid-19 vaccination requirement affecting all member-workers, and expressions of welcome and support directed toward General Manager Joe Holtz.

Financial Report

Treasurer Joe Holtz presented a financial report, referring to notes and statements covering the first 28 weeks of the fiscal year, which had been distributed before the meeting. Member questions included funding the pension plan and how the General Coordinators were approaching the requirement to end the temporary additional 4% markup that an August 2020 General Meeting decision put in place. ("The Coop should temporarily raise its markup from 21% to 25% to help cover both the added expense of running the Coop with temporary labor and diminished sales as a result of Covid-19. The mark-up will revert to 21% when member-labor has resumed in full or the Coop's finances reach break-even level.")

Reports from the General Coordinators

General Coordinator Ann Herpel made a report which included newly hired membership coordinators, area construction work that will affect the Coop's bike racks, and the success of new member recruitment. Member questions included inquiries seeking more details on the number of people leaving the Coop, the work-status of members and orientation of new members.

Committee Reports

Member Brian Shuman gave a report for the Committee Oversight Committee. Member Eric Frumin of the Labor Committee made a report regarding its work on addressing reports of bad working conditions at the Amy's Kitchen brand.

Agenda item 1 – Discussion: Collecting Member Input on the GM Agenda

Referencing a visual presentation, members Beth Ruck and George Sarah Olken introduced the topic, which was described on the meeting agenda: "How can the GM be more engaging to a wider range of members? Can we create a mechanism that will allow members at each GM to help shape the agenda of upcoming meetings?" Member discussion included ideas such as utilizing chatrooms outside the GM, dealing with committee elections by having vote-a-thons

quarterly, semi-annually or annually, and whether or not to require a member idea to be first discussed at a GM before it could be brought to a later GM as a proposal and voted on.

Agenda item 2 – Discussion: Returning Childcare for Member Workers and Shoppers

Member Lauren Belski introduced the topic, which was described on the meeting agenda: “To recognize the current need for childcare for member-workers, the importance of childcare as a founding principle of our establishment, and to initiate a timeline for reinstating it within 90 days of passing this proposal. The cost of living is sky-rocketing and families need the coop now more than ever, yet many families left the coop after work requirements returned, and those parents who stayed are often behind on their shifts. Why? Because child care did not return alongside the member requirement to work. Without childcare, many parents are struggling to schedule work shifts that don’t require also footing a bill for a babysitter. Paying for a babysitter in order to complete your required work hours cancels out the savings of the food coop. The lack of childcare also sends an unfriendly message to working families in the community. We are asking that the community comes together to recognize the needs of member families by reinstating childcare.” The meeting discussed the item.

Presentation of Minutes

Coop secretary Elizabeth Tobier presented the minutes of the June 28, 2022 Annual Meeting, the June 28, 2022 General Meeting, and the July 26, 2022 General Meeting, which had been distributed to members before the meeting. The meeting approved the minutes of these 3 meetings by general consent.

Board of Directors’ Meeting

Board of Directors’ meeting was chaired by Bill Penner. Five board members were present: Joe Holtz, Viren Mehta, Bill Penner, Imani Q’ryn and Brandon West. Shayna Moliver was not in attendance. All members of the board present voted in favor of accepting the advice of the members on the minutes of the June 28, 2022 Annual Meeting, the June 28, 2022 General Meeting, and the July 26, 2022 General Meeting.

The chair adjourned the meeting at 9:24 p.m.



Elizabeth Tobier, Secretary
Park Slope Food Coop
Brooklyn, NY
September 2, 2022
(Approved by the September 27, 2022 PSFC GM)