

Minutes of the Tuesday, April 29, 2025 Park Slope Food Coop General Meeting

The monthly General Meeting (GM) of the Park Slope Food Coop (PSFC) was held at the Prospect Park Picnic House on Tuesday, April 29, 2025, beginning at 6:57 p.m. PSFC had previously arranged for the meeting to be held at City Tech University's theater, a 900-seat venue, in order to accommodate the large member turnout expected, as the agenda was to include a long-awaited proposal to change the Coop bylaws to allow for hybrid GMs. On April 10, City Tech cancelled the rental, and the original April 2025 GM agenda which had been posted on the website was taken down. On April 15, an announcement about City Tech's cancelation was emailed to Coop members and a new meeting place and agenda were posted on the PSFC website, foodcoop.com, inviting members to participate. For clarity, the two April 2025 GM agendas and the emailed announcement are included below. Meeting materials were made available to all Coop members by email before the meeting. Chair Committee members Charlie Rogers and Dan Hegwood served as chair and secretary. The room was filled to legal capacity and there were an estimated 50 – 60 members outside who could not participate for this reason. At one point during open forum, the members who could not come inside the room were loudly chanting, "Hybrid Meetings!"

Below is the original April 2025 GM agenda announcement, followed by the announcement sent to Coop members by email about City Tech's cancelation, followed by the revised April 2025 agenda announcement.



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April General Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, April 29, 2025

7:00 p.m.

- **Where: Theatre, NYC College of Technology, 275 Jay Street**
- Only Park Slope Food Coop members may attend. To enter the meeting, all members must present their membership card or phone with their member ID barcode at the entrance.
- Time in parentheses is a suggestion. The Chair has the discretion to change the order of the agenda or the time allotted to each item.

I. Meeting Warm-up and Chair Committee Introduction (7:00–7:10 p.m.)

II. AGENDA (7:10–9:30 p.m.)

Item 1: Amending Coop bylaws, policies, and procedures to ensure the Coop's survival and success (20 minutes)

Item Sponsor: Zach Zaban

Discussion: Form a study committee of members and staff to make recommendations about what amendments to the bylaws (including Article VI) and to Coop policies and procedures may be necessary or useful to ensure the Coop's continued success.

Item 2: Proposal to Amend Article VI of the PSFC Bylaws (20 minutes)

Item Sponsor: Elizabeth Tobier

Discussion: Proposal to amend Article VI of the bylaws of the Park Slope Food Coop, Inc., by adding a paragraph, for the purpose of specifying the circumstances under which a General Meeting can be held remotely using a videoconferencing application. The proposed draft paragraph to be added is:

“6. When the Park Slope Food Coop cannot locate a meeting space within which to hold a scheduled meeting, after a reasonable effort has been made to do so, that particular meeting, and only that particular meeting, may be held remotely using a videoconferencing application.”

Item 3: Making GMs Hybrid (90 minutes)

Item Sponsors: Morgan Vo and CJ Glackin

Proposal: Proposal to make all General Meetings hybrid – both in-person and online – through amending the PSFC bylaws, Article VI, Sections 2 and 4, by appending the following statement: “Presence and gathering at meetings shall be by physical presence and by virtual presence consistent with New York Business Corporation Law Section (708)c.” The Chair Committee will lead the development of best practices for hybrid General Meetings, to be presented within three months of the passing of this item.

III. Board of Directors Meeting (9:30 p.m.)

OUR LOCATION

782 Union Street
Brooklyn, NY 11215

CONTACT US

tel: 718-622-0560 (tel:7186220560)
fax: 718-622-5685 (tel:7186225685)

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Mon - Tue: 10:30am - 5:30pm
Wed: Closed
Thu- Sat: 10:30am - 5:30pm
Sun: 8:00am - 3:30pm

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PSFC: Important Update on April GM – Change of Agenda and Venue

From Park Slope Food Coop <donotreply@foodcoop.com>

To

Date Tuesday, April 15th, 2025 at 8:34 PM

April 15, 2025

Dear Coop Members,

The venue and agenda for the General Meeting (GM) on April 29 have changed! Please see the updated details below.

As some of you may know, the April GM was initially scheduled to be held at the Theatre at City Tech University. We chose this venue because it has over 900 seats, offering ample space for what we anticipated to be a substantial turnout for the vote on a bylaw amendment to establish a hybrid GM meeting. The Theatre was well-versed in hosting large events and provided an advanced A/V setup with technical support.

However, on Thursday, April 10, we received an email from City Tech canceling our rental. The email read: "After further review, we can no longer accommodate this event. Sorry for any inconvenience this may cause." Despite our attempts to contact the City Tech events staff via email and phone for further clarification, we did not receive a response. To be absolutely clear, City Tech made the decision to cancel. This action was not initiated by the General Coordinators in any way.

A separate email will be sent by the General Coordinators in the coming days to address the statements we have received regarding the cancellation. Please watch for that communication.

Revised April GM Agenda

In light of the venue change, the Agenda Committee has revised the agenda. You can find the updated agenda at the following link: <https://www.foodcoop.com/gmagenda/>. The revised agenda includes:

- Proposal: To vote on whether to create a new Coop committee called the "Plastic Reduction Committee" – Members attending the meeting will have the opportunity to cast their votes on this proposal.
- Discussion: PSFC Treasurer Position Eligibility Requirements – This item will be discussed but will not be subject to a vote during the April meeting.

We recommend reviewing the draft minutes from the March 2025 General Meeting (https://www.foodcoop.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/2025_03_25_minutes.pdf) prior to the meeting. The 8-week Financial Statement, which will be presented on April 29, is still being prepared and will be sent out in a future email.

Both the financial statement and the minutes will be discussed during the GM. During the treasurer's report, you can ask questions about the Coop's finances and operations, ensuring transparency and engagement. For more information on the structure and purpose of the GM, please visit the Coop's website (<https://www.foodcoop.com>), under

the Membership tab.

We highly encourage members to participate in the GM. This meeting provides an opportunity to connect with fellow members, hear from the General Coordinators and various committees, and give advice to the Board by voting on proposals.

Thank you for your attention to these updates, and we look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

In cooperation,
Ann Herpel, General Coordinator



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April General Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, April 29, 2025

7:00 p.m.

- **Where: Picnic House, Prospect Park**, 95 Prospect Park West, between 4th and 5th Street
- Only Park Slope Food Coop members may attend. To enter the meeting, all members must present their membership card or phone with their member ID barcode at the entrance.
- Time in parentheses is a suggestion. The Chair has the discretion to change the order of the agenda or the time allotted to each item.

I. Meeting Warm-up and Chair Committee Introduction (7:00–7:10 p.m.)

II. Open Forum (7:10–7:25 p.m.)

III. Treasurer's Report (7:25–7:40 p.m.)

IV. General Coordinators' Reports (7:40–7:55 p.m.)

V. Member Committee Reports (7:55–8:00 p.m.)

Depending on the number of Committees prepared to report, each Committee will have up to 5 minutes to make a report. Committees must notify the Chair before the meeting to help the Chair plan time allotments.

VI. AGENDA (8:00–9:30 p.m.)

Item 1: For membership to vote on whether to create a new Coop committee called the "Plastic Reduction Committee" (45 minutes)

Item Sponsor: Zoe Kaplan-Lewis

Proposal: To hold a membership vote on a new Coop action committee – the Plastic Reduction Committee – to work with and in support of Coop staff to reduce the Coop’s reliance on plastic, which has detrimental impacts on health, environment and climate.

Item 2: PSFC Treasurer Position Eligibility Requirements (45 minutes)

Item Sponsors: Bookkeeping Coordinator Terry Meyers, Receiving Coordinator Gillian Chi, and Membership Coordinators Jana Cunningham and Yuwie Tantipech

Discussion: The Treasurer of the Park Slope Food Coop shall be a full-time PSFC employee who is nominated for the position through a collaborative process that will include Area Coordinators and General Coordinators.

III. Board of Directors Meeting (9:30 p.m.)

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General Coordinators' (GC) Reports

GC Joe Szladek made a report, which included an announcement on a bookkeeping coordinator opening and a staff promotion. Cheese buyer Yuri Weber made a cheese and chocolate report.

Open Forum

Several members made points in favor of hybrid GMs. Several members expressed frustration at the mid-month change in the planned April GM agenda, which was due to an unexpected, sudden cancelation by the venue rented for the meeting. Some members expressed an interest in permitting the board to decide on their own to hold a mailed ballot referendum of all members on changing the Coop bylaws to allow hybrid GMs. The meeting discussed the open forum items. Member John Alexander made a motion to adjourn the member-advising (discussion and voting) part of the meeting and proceed to the board meeting vote portion, which the chair denied. John made a motion to overturn the chair's decision. Statements were made by John and by the chair on either side of the motion to overrule the chair's decision. The motion to overrule the chair passed by a raised-hand vote of overwhelming support. The meeting next voted on the motion, "Should the General Meeting be adjourned?" which passed by a raised-hand vote of overwhelming support.

Presentation of Minutes

Coop secretary Elizabeth Tobier presented the minutes of the March 25, 2025 GM, which were approved by general consent. **None of the scheduled agenda items which were circulated to membership prior to the meeting were taken up by the GM.** The member-advising part of the meeting ended at 7:50 p.m.

Board of Directors' Meeting

Tess Brown-Lavoie chaired the Board of Directors' meeting. Five board members were present: Tess Brown-Lavoie, Joe Holtz, Tim Hospodar, Imani Q'ryn and Keyian Vafai. Brandon West was absent. All members of the board present voted in favor of accepting the advice of the members on the minutes of the March 25, 2025 GM. Keyian made a motion to allow a membership mail ballot referendum vote as outlined in agenda item #884, titled "Hybrid Meeting Proposal", which was seconded. After discussion, Tess, Tim and Keyian voted in favor and Joe and Imani voted against the "motion for the board to issue a mail ballot, also known as a 'referendum,' to collect Coop membership's advice on the 'Hybrid Meeting Proposal,' Agenda item #884. This 'referendum' should be included on the same ballot as the Board of Directors election ballot, which goes out in May 2025. All members will have the opportunity to weigh in on this issue by voting online using the SimplyVoting ballot system or by voting via paper ballot at the membership office."

The meeting concluded at 8:30 p.m.



Elizabeth Tobier, Secretary

Park Slope Food Coop

Brooklyn, NY

June 6, 2025

(Approved by the June 24, 2025 PSFC GM)