

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

The monthly General Meeting (GM) of the Park Slope Food Coop (PSFC) was held at Atolye, 236 6th Street, Brooklyn, NY, on Tuesday, July 29, 2025, beginning at 7:10 p.m. A few weeks beforehand, an announcement about the scheduled meeting and the agenda were posted on the PSFC website, foodcoop.com, inviting members to participate. Meeting materials were made available to all Coop members by email before the meeting. Chair Committee members Josef Szende and Charlie Rogers served as chair and secretary.

Open Forum

Members raised various topics and the meeting discussed them.

General Coordinators' (GC) Reports and Treasurer's Report

General Manager and treasurer Joe Szladek spoke to criticisms about an email former General Manager Joe Holtz sent out to members in early June concerning the Board election and commented on the ongoing antagonism and actions taken between both sides of the topic of boycotting Israeli products. Then, referring to a projected slide show, Joe made the financial report for the 20-week period ending 06/20/25, which had been distributed to members via email before the meeting. GC Elinoar Astrinsky made a report which included updates on refrigeration and air conditioning repairs, staff comings and goings, a book about the Coop authored by Coop member Sun Yu, changes in the Food Processing area and Food Classes, and a Summer Food Drive the Coop is holding to benefit CHiPS. The meeting discussed the reports.

Committee Reports

Wordsprouts Committee Squad Leader Sarah Schenck spoke about the history of the committee and upcoming events. International Trade Education Committee (ITES) member Bart DeCoursy made a report concerning international trade and an invitation to join the committee. Cooking Squad member Charlie Rogers made a report on the recent change from remote-only format to live and remote participation options for the Coop's cooking classes. The meeting discussed the reports.

Agenda item 1 – Election – Agenda Committee

Agenda Committee (AC) member Dominique Bravo spoke on the committee's purpose and how it handles agenda submissions, before introducing AC candidate Adrien Lorenzo Weibgen, who then addressed the meeting and answered member questions. The meeting voted by paper ballot, and elected Adrien to a 3-year term on the AC. Below are the election results.

AC candidate	First time or reelected	Yes votes	No votes
Adrien Lorenzo Weibgen	First time	190	21

Agenda item 2 – Election – Personnel Committee

Personnel Committee (PC) member Valerie Vadala introduced PC candidate Leslie Schultz, who addressed the meeting and answered questions. The meeting voted by paper ballot and elected Leslie to a 3-year seat on the PC. Below are the election results.

PC candidate	First time or reelected	Yes votes	No votes
Leslie Schultz	First time	185	10

Agenda item 3 – Proposal: Vote to Create the Plastic Reduction Committee

Member Jessica Roff introduced the item using a slide presentation, stating reasons for forming the committee and the approach toward reducing plastic waste intended by the group of members that have been working together on this possibility. Below is the description of the topic that appeared on the GM agenda announcement, which was referenced by Jessica, when she made a motion to bring the proposal to the GM floor.

***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.*

After discussion, the meeting voted by paper ballot in favor of the formation of the Plastic Reduction Committee, with 180 yes votes and 14 no votes.

Agenda item 4 – Discussion: A New Coop Meeting Format for True Democratic Participation

Membership Coordinator Jason Weiner introduced the item using a slide presentation, and the meeting discussed it. Below is the description of the topic that appeared on the GM agenda announcement.

***Discussion:** All members should be part of our democracy, not limited to a time and format that doesn't allow full participation. Our model is inherently inequitable. Hybrid doesn't fix that. It is time for all members to be heard.*

If our goal, as a Coop, is to really allow everyone to have a voice and be part of our democracy, it's time to make voting an integral part of our general membership.

It's time to stop limiting it to a time that doesn't allow all members to participate. It's time to make all votes part of the full membership.

It's time to create a system that honors the fundamental need for all members to participate, if we want to continue this type of governance.

It's time to create a system that allows all members to hear the entire conversation and THEN if an item comes up for a vote, cast an informed vote.

It's time to make the General Meeting a discussion-only format.

It's time to make the ability to receive credit at the GM be like a grand jury duty (where it becomes your work responsibility for the entire year, so the same members build a greater understanding of these items, and the incentive of credit is not just about increasing participation).

After each discussion, the full membership would be able to access:

- *The full recording of the discussion is available if they want.*
- *A detailed summary if they don't.*
- *A full pro and con list on any item (created by this grand member team).*
- *Time for additional conversations and discourse through an online forum or the Gazette.*
- *And perhaps, most importantly, an opportunity to hear in detail how the hourly-paid staff feel about any particular topic. Remember, this Coop belongs to ALL OF US, but it's the staff's livelihood and future that is affected by every decision that comes out of the meeting.*

True community-based governance centers those who are most impacted within the community.

Presentation of Minutes

Coop secretary Elizabeth Tobier presented the minutes of the June 24, 2025 AM and the June 24, 2025 GM for meeting approval. Both meeting minutes were approved by general consent.

Board of Directors' Meeting

Brandon West chaired the Board of Directors' meeting. Four board members were present: Lynn Husum, Tim Hospodar, Joe Szladek and Brandon West. Tess Brown-Lavoie and Keyian Vafai were absent. Lynn gave a detailed report on the recount of 133 paper ballots cast during the referendum vote on amending the Coop bylaws to allow hybrid GMs. The report included the people in attendance for the recount, who did the actual counting, and the results of the recount, which showed no discrepancy from the original vote count. All members of the board present voted in favor of accepting the advice of the members on the June 24, 2025 AM minutes and the June 24, 2025 GM minutes. All members of the board present voted in favor of accepting the advice of the members on agenda item 1: Agenda Committee election. All members of the board present voted in favor of accepting the advice of the members on agenda item 2: Personnel Committee election. All members of the board present voted in favor of accepting the advice of the members on agenda item 3: Creation of the Plastic Reduction Committee. All members of the board present voted in favor of accepting the results of the referendum vote held in June 2025 (4,321 Yes [66.4%] / 2,183 No [33.6%]). Since a bylaws amendment requires a two-thirds majority, the measure did not pass.

The meeting concluded at 9:40 p.m.



Elizabeth Tobier, Secretary
Park Slope Food Coop
Brooklyn, NY
September 11, 2025
(Approved by the August 30, 2025 PSFC GM)