

## **Minutes of the Tuesday, October 28, 2025 Park Slope Food Coop General Meeting**

*Approved by the December 2, 2025 PSFC GM*

The monthly General Meeting (GM) of the Park Slope Food Coop (PSFC) was held at the Picnic House in Prospect Park on Tuesday, October 28, 2025, starting at 7:10 p.m. A week beforehand, an email announcement about the scheduled meeting including links to the agenda was sent to all members inviting them to attend. Additional meeting materials were made available in the email.

Chair Committee members Genevieve Yu and Josef Szende served as Chair and Secretary respectively. Chair committee members David Moss and Charlies Rogers were also present and sitting at the Chair table. General Coordinator Ann Herpel volunteered to take the minutes in the absence of a Corporate Secretary.

### **Open Forum**

The Chair Committee opened the meeting with an announcement that they are looking for members to join the hybrid meeting implementation committee. The announcement is posted on foodcoop.com and the deadline to apply is November 15.

One member raised the topic of SNAP benefits payment suspension as of November 1, and how the Coop was addressing the situation for its members using SNAP.

### **General Coordinators' and Treasurer's Reports**

General Manager and treasurer Joe Szladek made the financial report for the 36-week period ending 10/12/2025. The 36-week statement had been distributed to all members via email before the meeting. Szladek thanked Kristin Schoonover for her assistance in preparing the presentation.

Highlights of the financial statement:

- Sales increased 8.7% over the same period last fiscal year, reaching approximately \$43 million
- Membership growth was 4-4.5% year over year
- Net operating income loss of about \$453,000
- Personnel costs increased 13% year over year, primarily due to cost of living adjustments and payouts for staff retirements
- Health care expenses are rising significantly as a percentage of sales

GM Szladek also announced the base mark-up will remain at 25% for FY2027, beginning February 2, 2026.

General Coordinator Matt Hoagland presented a membership operations report addressing member staffing challenges and the demand for recurring shifts.

Highlights include:

- Early morning shifts in receiving have the highest number of unclaimed shifts each week.
- Checkout, entrance and cart return shifts are consistently filled each week.
- Increasing recurring shifts at popular times (Mo-Fri 6:00 p.m.) limits workslot opportunities for the majority of members
- Appeal to members to consider doing one shift in receiving annually to persistent need for more workers in receiving

### **Committee Reports**

International Trade Education Committee (ITES) member Bart DeCourcy made a report about tariffs in the courts and the effect of tariffs on price increases. A member asked a question about how tariffs have impacted Coop prices. DeCourcy said he did not have that data.

**Agenda Item 1: Hearing Administration Committee (HAC) Election**

HAC member Dominique Bravo spoke on the committee’s purpose and responsibilities, before introducing candidates Irene Bunnell, Stephen Klein, and Sam Klugman. Irene Bunnell and Sam Klugman addressed the meeting and answered questions from members. Stephen Klein was not present. The meeting voted by paper ballot and all three candidates were elected to three-year terms.

HAC Candidate	First time or re-elected	Yes Votes	No Votes
Irene Bunnell	First time	123	2
Stephen Klein	First time	80	23
Sam Klugman	First time	121	3

**Agenda Item 2: Agenda Committee (AC) Election**

AC member Dominique Bravo spoke on the committee’s purpose and responsibilities and how members were selected to be candidates. She introduced the three new candidates, Matt Cecil, Robbie Gottlieb, and Alice Proctor, who each addressed the meeting. Dominique Bravo also addressed the meeting since she was up for re-election. All candidates answered questions from members. The meeting voted by paper ballot and all four candidates were elected to two-year terms.

AC Candidates	First time or re-elected	Yes Votes	No Votes
Dominique Bravo	Re-elected	94	29
Matt Cecil	First Time	99	20
Robbie Gottlieb	First Time	126	3
Alice Procter	First Time	125	2

**Agenda Item 3: Interim Corporate Secretary Election**

General Manager Joe Szladek spoke to the resignation of the prior Corporate Secretary and the need to elect an Interim Secretary. He described the responsibilities of the role and the term length until the annual meeting in June 2026. The Chair called for nominations from the floor. Rebecca Schoenberg-Jones nominated herself and read a prepared statement. She answered questions from members. The meeting voted by paper ballot and Rebecca Schoenberg-Jones was elected. She will serve until June 30, 2026.

Interim Secretary Candidate	Yes Votes	No Votes
Rebecca Schoenberg-Jones	124	0

**Agenda Item 4: Online, Asynchronous Discussion and Voting**

Text of published discussion item: *Set up an online forum within Member Services to discuss agenda items ahead of General Meetings. Allow online “early voting” for agenda items. For details and a comment form, please visit [tinyurl.com/psfc-online-forum](https://tinyurl.com/psfc-online-forum)*

Member Yejia Chen presented her item on creating an online asynchronous discussion and voting system to increase member participation in the Coop’s governance and decision-making process. Online, asynchronous discussion and voting allows for more members to comment and vote on agenda items. It can be accessed at any time and does not restrict participation to one evening per month. It makes it easier for members who

can't attend or who have difficulty participating in live meetings to have a voice in decision making. Chen responded to questions and comments from members. Chen also encouraged members to use the comment form to contribute to the shaping of this agenda item.

### **Presentation of September Minutes**

The September minutes were not presented. The General Coordinators will bring the draft September minutes to the December 2 GM.

### **PSFC Board of Directors' Meeting**

President Brandon West chaired the Board meeting.

Five Board members were present: Brandon West, Tess Brown-Lavoie, Keyian Vafai, Tim Hospodar, and Joe Szladek. Lynn Husum was not present.

All members of the Board present voted in favor of accepting the advice of the members on agenda item 1: Hearing Administration Committee election.

All members of the Board present voted in favor of accepting the advice of the members on agenda item 2: Agenda Committee Election.

All members of the Board present voted in favor of accepting theh advice of the members on agenda item 3: Interim Corporate Secretary Election.

There were no other Board actions.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.



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Ann Herpel, General Coordinator  
Park Slope Food Coop  
Brooklyn, NY  
November 15, 2025

