

Minutes of the Tuesday, December 2, 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, December 2, 2025, beginning at 7:04 PM. A few weeks beforehand, an announcement about the scheduled meeting and the agenda was 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, as well as screen-projected during the meeting. Voting for proposals was done using paper ballots. Chair Committee members Daniel Hegwood and Genevieve Yue served as chair and secretary, respectively. David Moss and Josef Szende were at the table. Approximately 135 members were in attendance.

Open Forum

Issues raised by members included: a request to release a legal opinion given to the Board of Directors regarding instituting hybrid meetings; a reminder about Giving Tuesday and individual and collective efforts to make the coop more accessible to members of our community through the products the coop stocks; support for a boycott of Israeli products; a question to board members regarding their commitment to vote according to the membership with respect to a future vote on removing the supermajority exception for boycotts; a reminder to read an article in the November 18, 2025 Linewaiters' Gazette encouraging Coop members to send money to support a coop in São Paulo; a question why members of the proposed Financial Advisory Committee need not be Coop staff if the Coop treasurer must be a member of the staff; a mention that the new issue of the PSFC for Palestine zine, The Olive Press, is out; a response from board member Keyian Vafai stating he believes in voting with the membership; and a comment comparing complaints about the money spent for Joe Holtz's retirement party at the October GM to the greater expected cost to implement hybrid meetings.

Financial Report and General Coordinators' (GC) Reports

General Manager, GC, and Treasurer Joe Szladek referred to a slide deck with the 40 week financial report as of November 9, 2025 summarizing the report made available to members via email. GC Elinoar Astrinsky delivered the Thanksgiving food report (along with a riddle and an extended Jeopardy-type presentation regarding most commonly sold items).

Member Committee Reports

Bart DeCoursy from the International Trade Education Committee (ITES) discussed the (Trump's) tariffs on goods from China and Japan. Trump dropped tariffs on hundreds of products on 11/13. Grocery prices should decrease on many items.

Josef Szende from the Chair Committee delivered a report on the process of interviewing and selecting members and staff who will work on the committee to transition GMs to a hybrid format.

Agenda Item 1: Vote — Create the Financial Advisory Committee

Michael Freedman-Schnapp, who introduced the proposal at the September GM, presented it for a vote:

The Financial Advisory Committee will regularly review the financial performance of and economic conditions facing the Coop and provide advice to the members and staff on addressing these issues through regular reports. This committee is advisory only.

Membership asked questions and discussed the proposal. The proposal passed.

Yes Votes	No Votes
111	11

Agenda Item 2: Discussion of Top-down Communication Emails

Rosa Palermo presented a proposal to amend the membership handbook to define the use of the Food Coop’s do-not-reply email address in order to limit communications to operational (non-opinion) purposes only. Membership asked questions and discussed the proposal.

Agenda Item 3: Election—Hearing Officer Committee (HOC)

Marian Hertz, a current member of the HOC, presented two candidates nominated for election: Josh Geller and Jacob Heyman-Kantor. Candidates introduced themselves. Membership asked questions of the candidates. Both candidates were elected to the committee for three year terms.

HOC Candidate	Yes Votes	No Votes
Josh Geller	93	31
Jacob Heyman-Kantor	120	5

Agenda Item 4: Proposal for Free and Fair Elections

Sophia Li and George Sarah Olken presented a proposal for discussion to:

- Require specific PSFC committees to hold regular, transparent, equitable, and open elections.
- Create an Election Committee, appointed by the Board of Directors, to administer elections.

Membership asked questions and discussed the proposal.

Presentation of Minutes

GC Ann Herpel presented the minutes of the September 30, 2025 and October 28, 2025 GMs for approval. Both meeting minutes were approved by general consent.

Board of Directors’ Meeting

Brandon West chaired the Board of Directors’ meeting. All six board members were present: Tess Brown-Lavoie, Tim Hospedar, Lynn Husum, Joe Szladek, and Keyian Vafai.

All members of the board voted in favor of accepting the advice of the members on the minutes of the September 30, 2025 and October 28, 2025 General Meetings.

All members voted in favor of accepting the advice of the members on item 1, “Creation of the Financial Advisory Committee”.

All members voted in favor of accepting the advice of the members on item 3, “Hearing Officer Committee Election”.

There were no other Board actions.

The meeting concluded at 9:35 PM.



Rebecca Schoenberg-Jones, Secretary
Park Slope Food Coop
Brooklyn, NY