

Minutes of the Tuesday, January 27, 2026 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, January 27, 2026, beginning at 7:05 PM. 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. Chair Committee members David Moss and Josef Szende served as chair and secretary, respectively. Charlie Rogers and Genevieve Yue were at the table. 128 members were in attendance. David Moss and Joe Holtz discussed whether a general meeting could take place with fewer than 100 people to constitute quorum; the 100 person minimum is only required for the annual meeting.

Open Forum

Issues raised by members included: a request to disclose the legal opinion regarding a Board vote on proposals without discussion by the membership; a statement that Israeli companies oppress Palestinians and enable surveillance by ICE; a reminder about International Holocaust Remembrance Day and a request that the Coop make a statement that it stands with the Jewish community.

Financial Report and General Coordinators' (GC) Reports

General Manager, GC, and Treasurer Joe Szladek referred to a slide deck with the 48 week financial report as of January 4, 2026 summarizing the report made available to members via email. The Coop had net sales of \$58M, and a net income -\$112K. It is expected that we will break even soon; we are still rebounding from our "summer hole" (when sales are lowest) and the return has been slower than typical due to higher health insurance costs. The adjusted cash position is lower because money has been redistributed among different accounts. Sales are up (in part due to inflation, in part due to an increase in members). There was a question from the membership about rising costs and the higher markup being able to offset these rapidly increasing costs.

GC Elinor Astrinsky announced that board submissions are due March 1. Year-end inventory is this Sunday, February 1; members will count every item in the Coop. The GC praised the efforts of the shovelers, staff, and members for getting us through "snowmageddon"/"snowzilla"/"winter".

Member Committee Reports

Leslie Schultz from the Personnel Committee described the work of the committee: to support the GM in employment and management issues; periodically evaluate GM's performance; carry out specific grievance related issues; provide input on hiring of the general manager and coordinators; and provide input on evaluation leading to raises. There can be seven members on the committee. A notice to apply for the open position will be posted.

Joe Holtz from the three-member Revolving Loan Committee delivered their report. The committee's origin stems from International Cooperative Principle #6. The Coop can supplement the fund by up to \$20K per year at the discretion of the GCs, which they did in 2012, 2013, and 2014. Members provided less than \$5K (donations are tax-deductible). Three applications have been submitted so far, all from the Greene Hill Food Co-op, all approved, at an interest rate of 2%. The third loan was made in August 2025 bringing total amount loaned to \$65,200; \$64,800 outstanding. The source of the loans is a money market invested in a donor-

advised fund (through FJC – A Foundation of Philanthropic Funds) that has \$9K available to lend; however donations are needed to keep the balance at \$10K. The committee is working on a proposal to the mayor's office to support food coops.

Jordan Dunn Equity, Access, and Community Committee shared the preliminary results of the first-ever member demographic survey. More than 27% of members (4711) completed the survey (27%). Zip code and work status were representative. There were 17 questions on the survey. Some of the results of the survey are:

- 56% of respondents work freelance shifts, 24% work recurring shifts, 14% are retired, 4% are work exempt or on leave, and 1% serve on committees
- 29% of respondents are between 30 and 39 years old
- 63% of respondents identified as female; 31% as male; 5% as nonbinary, gender nonconforming, gender fluid, or intersex; and 2% as transgender
- 71% of respondents indicated they are straight, 30% LGBTQ+
- 20% of respondents indicated having a disability
- 76% of respondents identified as White or Caucasian only; 9% as multiracial and/or multiethnic, 8% Asian or Pacific Islander only; 3% as Black, African American, or African only; 2% as Latino/a, Latino, Latinx, or Hispanic or Indigenous, Native American, or Alaska Native only; 1% as Arab, SWANA, Middle Eastern, or North African only, and 9% preferred not to indicate race or ethnicity
- 51% of respondents selected no religion, atheist, or agnostic; 21% Jewish alone; 11% Christian (any denomination); and 3% Jewish and no religion; 9.5% preferred not to select a religion
- 31% indicated they live alone, 42% in 2-person households, and 25% in 3- or 4-person households
- 51% of respondents walk to the Coop, 17% bike, 14% drive a car or are driven, 10% take the subway, 4% take the bus, and 2% take a cab or use a car service
- 48% of respondents indicated they earn more than \$150K, 68% earn more than \$101K, 10% earn under \$55K, and 10% earn more than \$350K

The next steps are to produce reports: on the interaction between different demographic factors; comparing the survey demographics to Park Slope, Brooklyn; suggesting future questions for research and recommended steps the Coop can take to increase equity and diversity.

Bart DeCoursey from the International Trade Education Committee (ITES) discussed the tariffs and trade news about India, Canada, and the EU. Trump dropped tariffs on hundreds of products on November 13, 2025. Grocery prices should eventually decrease on many items if the Supreme Court rules that Trump doesn't have the authority to impose broad tariffs through executive orders. The committee requests that members who participated in the WTO protests in 1999 email coopites@gmail.com to contribute to a member's documentary, WTO/99.

Sofia Montgomery, Lisa Pacenza, Bill Beckler, Matt Hoagland, and Josef Szende from the Hybrid group of the Chair Committee presented. At the September 2025 GM, the Board passed Agenda Item #844, a proposal for hybrid meetings. The group is a nine member body. Their guiding principles are to:

- make GMs more accessible,
- produce a seamless experience between physical and online,
- enable secure voting, and
- preserve the nature of the meeting.

The decisions they have made are that we will:

- Use zoom.
- Sign up ahead of time to protect voting.
- Keep the existing microphone set up.
- Use a smart phone in the meeting room to log into zoom.

- Share the screen online.
- Vote on paper in person and vote online using a zoom poll. (Note: This is not a perfect system but neither is the existing system.)
- Moderate participation so that online and in-person members can contribute to the meeting and continue to use Robert's Rules.

An accessibility survey was announced; members were encouraged to fill it out. A trial run is scheduled for Thursday, February 12; members were invited to participate. Members asked questions about whether you can get shift credit for attending GMs online, voter security, and the availability of the presentation.

Agenda Item 1: Discussion to Formalize the “Principle 6 Committee”, Focused on Advancing Cooperation among Cooperatives

Anne Schoeneborn, Cheyenna Weber, Raj Kottamasu, and Fran Sanhhueza presented a proposal:

To deepen the 11-year relationship between the Park Slope Food Coop and the Cooperative Economics Alliance of NYC (CEANYC) by formalizing a member committee focused on advancing cooperative principle #6 (cooperation among cooperatives) in NYC and our surrounding foodshed.

These efforts have helped to start the Lancaster Farm Fresh Co-op, the Cooperative Loan Fund, and to set up Garden of Union (where we bring compost). In 2014, GC and member labor helped to found the Cooperative Economics Alliance of NYC (CEANYC) whose member organizations include: food coops, worker coops, community land trusts, community-owned internet providers, and mutual aid organizations. CEANYC relies on PSFC member labor for many skills (photography, communications, website and database development, and management) and 17 members have received work slot credit over the last calendar year.

The proposal is to form a committee of 12 member-owners who provide ongoing support; and up to 12 member-owners who provide project-specific or ad hoc support. Each committee member would have an agreed-upon scope of work and a CEANYC counterpart who will guide their work. There already are members doing this work but will the committee will recruit member-owners through the Linewaiters' Gazette (LWG). Responsibilities would include: presenting a committee report 1-2 times per year at a GM; publishing updates in the LWG annually; and building out the existing Principle 6 page on the PSFC website. The committee will strive to reflect the diversity of the Coop. Historically committee appointments have been based on skill only but new committee members would be selected with diversity in mind. Membership asked questions about how the committee will interact with other related committees and with coops outside of CEANYC and how the size was determined. Membership discussed the proposal.

Agenda Item 2: Proposal to Adopt Community Agreements and a Code of Conduct

Jason Weiner presented a proposal for a vote:

To foster more humane interactions and transparency within the Coop, we will formalize a set of community agreements and a code of conduct.

The Coop has not adopted community agreements but having them could protect the Coop from liability. A set of community agreements were suggested based on sample community agreements provided by Preservation of Affordable Housing in partnership with Design Impact in their Trauma-Informed Housing Toolkit. A code of conduct was suggested based on the

Democratic Socialists of America's code of conduct (but with comrade-centric language replaced by member-centric language). Prior to adoption, a code of conduct would be vetted by legal counsel and the Dispute Resolution Committee. The Dispute Resolution Committee (DRC) would be able to edit the code of conduct prior to codification and would be responsible for enforcing it. Community agreements would be voted on in a general meeting.

Membership asked questions about how the proposal for a new Coop meeting format introduced in the July 29, 2025 GM related to the current proposal and about how the community agreements and code of conduct would be determined. The Agenda Committee asked Jason to split the initial proposal into individual components. Jason prioritized the adoption of community agreements and a code of conduct first; next would be a proposal for additional moderation. The mandate would be for the DRC, in consultation with the Coop's legal counsel, to come up with a code of conduct. The Coop would decide on the community agreements but who would participate and how they would do so was not decided. Membership expressed confusion over what was contained in the proposal. A suggestion was made to table the vote and amend the language. A motion was made to table the vote and it was seconded. The Chair referred to the Guide to the General and Annual Meetings to determine that the motion go straight to a vote, with a simple majority determining the outcome. An overwhelming majority voted to table the vote on the proposal (by a show of hands).

Presentation of Minutes

Secretary Rebecca Schoenberg-Jones presented the minutes of the December 2, 2025 GM for approval. Meeting minutes were approved by general consent.

Board of Directors' Meeting

Brandon West chaired the Board of Directors' meeting. Five additional board members were present: Tess Brown-Lavoie, Tim Hospedar, Joe Szladek, and Keyian Vafai. Lynn Husum was not present.

All members of the board voted in favor of accepting the advice of the members on the minutes of the December 2, 2025 General Meeting.

There were no other Board actions.

The meeting concluded at 9:02 PM.



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