

**Takoma Park Food Group
10/22/2011**

Meeting called to order at 4:30pm

Agenda

Membership meeting

Member Benefits

Boycott Policy

Product selection

Expansion

In attendance

Rihma (Member/ Owner)

Amy (Member / Owner)

David Walker (Board President)

Note: A useful resource is the Wiki link for information on Co-op: www.TPSSCoop.wikispaces.net

Summary review of last meeting:

Structure of the Committee (three tiers: Tasters Group, Research Group and Outreach)

Ensure our Committee's communication with staff and board is open and supportive. We seek to ensure the boundaries between our efforts and the roles of paid staff and the board are distinguished helpful and crystal clear.

Membership Meeting Update for Membership Meeting on 10/23/2011 @ 2:00 pm:

Board will ask two questions: About expansion and whether or not to expand; good data that shows that expansion should work. Market research feasibility study findings will be discussed and vote will be taken at meeting asking membership to move forward on expansion. Based on market feasibility study the buy in will have only about 4%-6% impact on Silver Spring which equates to a minimal impact. If the impact study showed 15% it would be significant enough for concern.

Two questions will be placed on sheet of paper at event to prepare understanding of member feedback on Co-op expansion: 1) What should new store include 2) What do you buy elsewhere

Annual report will arrive one week late therefore only unaudited report will be provided and discussed at membership meeting.

Question was asked about meeting spaces and the fact that committees are expanding and member involvement is picking up pace. We should work to ensure that space is available to new committees and that a calendar is strictly followed for such meetings.

Boycott Policy:

The intention is not to have boycotts of a specific ingredient because it is very messy and hard to do also not to boycott any one international country (as a Co-op boycotts will only call for a ban of a country based on US Law or US foreign policy i.e. Cuba).

Action item: We took a vote on the idea of how many members should be required to sign a petition in order to qualify a proposed boycott for a member vote. Vote was taken and consensus was reached by all in attendance that the following should be included in the language of a final boycott policy: a petition must be signed by between 50-75 members in order to qualify a boycott item for a membership for a vote. "VOTED THAT LETS PING BOARD regarding idea of 50-75 active member count for petition of a boycott to move forward to a membership vote"

How do we prevent anyone choosing for example peanuts to target?

Idea was expressed that the nature of the word boycott can evoke negative or controlling stance. Instead we should focus instead on product selection guidelines (See Product Selection Guidelines a Food Advisory Group and Board Collaboration).

Member Benefits:

Standard benefit for buying in bulk. Member benefits give us our competitive edge.

Idea that Members get a discount on everything (its out of favor in Co-ops, due to inability to manage it) Economies of scale increased membership required. David shared philosophy and background on ways the Co-op could reexamine its member benefits concept to include a standard across the board discount on all products for membership; something that would include active management of the margins on products and data collected on profitability or not based on use of an across the board discount.

Product Selection:

Idea that the Co-op could benefit from implementing unified guidelines as a buying guide for best practice when staff select products. This has been suggested at previous food group meetings and was discussed on Sunday 10/16 at the board meeting (see notes from Emily Townsend (Board Member) who reached out directly to the Food Advisory Committee on this need.

" At Sunday's Board meeting we discussed the possibility of creating some product selection guidelines for the co-op, and decided that there was a lot of overlap with the Food Advisory Committee. If you think you or any of the folks on that committee would be interested in working together on creating these guidelines, then I'd like to come to your next meeting to discuss it. I'm cc'ing Mary & Claretta, who were also interested in working on this project."

An open discussion followed on the groups criteria for creating the guidelines in the first place:

Questions to ask and answer to set the tone for the creation of product sourcing guidelines:

- 1) What is the philosophy for creating guidelines (we should ensure the civility of the process)?

- 2) **Boycott Policy should be implemented alongside the sourcing guidelines)**
- 3) **As Emily pointed out in her original email work on the policy creation should pull from guidelines in place at other Co-ops.**

Agenda Items proposed for next meeting:

- 1) **Proposal to Membership Committee from Food Advisory Committee Consider Member Benefit Change like 5% off across the board for all members.**
- 2) **Proposal to the board to consideration for gift card for members of committees some type of incentive for our efforts (based on accomplishments?)**
- 3) **Product Selection Guidelines & Boycott Policy**
- 4) **History of Co-op**