

TPSS Board of Representatives Meeting

Date: January 29, 2017

Time and Place: 6:00pm, TPSS Community Room

Board present: Rachel Hardwick (RH), Robert Anderson (RA), Melissa Schweisguth (MS), Adam Frank (AF), John Cox (JC), Susan Cho (SC), Fred Feinstein (FF), Mary Rooker (MR), David Zuckerman (DZ)

Staff present: Abdi Guled (AG), Marilyn Berger (MB)

Minutes submitted by: Solveig Mortensen (SM)

RESOLUTIONS:

- The Board approved the December 30, 2016 open session Board meeting minutes as submitted.
- The Board accepted the “Monitoring Report Policy L8, Executive Succession” as submitted.
- The Board approved the annual renewal of CBLD program services as outlined in the CBLD participation agreement for the year 2017.

Check-in/Agenda review: The Board adjusted the evening’s agenda and acknowledged that the appointment of a new Board representative occurred within the December closed session. Board representatives provided suggestions about maintaining a product from a specific vendor and making revisions to the form the Co-op uses to solicit member and customer satisfaction input.

GM Report: AG described his practice of reviewing ten different grocery items and their prices, when he visits other grocery stores and competitors. AG emphasized that he has found that the Co-op’s prices are very competitive and confirmed that the Co-op plans to use comparison signage within the store to display the Co-op’s shopping values. Board representatives discussed stores that the Co-op may want to include in doing comparisons. Furthermore, several Board representatives gave the feedback that the Co-op could also provide an average basket cost comparison and not only make comparisons with high end grocery stores, but also show the Co-op’s shopping advantages as compared to a variety of grocery outlets.

AG summarized how within the country, several co-ops had to close; he noted that many co-ops are struggling with competition. AG also noted that the store experienced an increase in business with recent political events, such as the January women’s march.

Board and management discussed the subject of potentially renaming the Co-op, due to the fact that the Silver Spring store location was closed; and, a change to the TPSS name may better reflect who the Co-op is now. The Board acknowledged that making any change to the Co-op’s name would need to be a long-term process, involve the membership, and probably be aligned with other significant store changes or events.

Monitoring Report, L-8: The Board thanked the GM for the included organizational chart and confirmed that the managerial slots without staff names on the chart are currently unfilled. The Board accepted the report.

Renewal of CBLD: The Board reviewed the annual CBLD participation agreement and decided to renew it.

Board Committees: The Board discussed the topic of the full role of the Membership and Community Affairs. ¹ Committee and decided that this, as well as, financial training should be Board retreat topics. The Membership Committee Chair, MS noted that the Membership Committee currently does not have a committee charter; the Membership Committee planned to begin drafting one. The Policy Committee reported that they did not meet prior to this Board meeting, but that they will proceed with working on policy review. The Personnel Committee updated that Board that they are following up with the Co-op's attorney on a question regarding the Board administrator's compensation.

The Board revisited Board committee assignments and made the following modifications:

- MS joined the Nominations Committee.
- JC joined the Membership Committee.
- MR left the Nominations Committee but remains on the Membership and Personnel Committees.

The Board set June 28 at 6:30pm as the new Board meeting date for June.

6:50pm meeting adjourned.

Term 2017:

<u>Rep.</u>	<u>Dec</u>	<u>Jan</u>
Anderson	*	*
Cox		*
	(Appointed Jan.2017)	
Cho	*	*
Feinstein	*	*
Frank	*	*
Hardwick	*	*
Rooker	*	*
Schweisguth	ex	*
Zuckerman	*	*

(ex=excused)

¹ Note: the Membership Committee is formally written in the Co-op's bylaws as the Membership and Community Affairs Committee, but is commonly referred to as the Membership Committee.

Board Representative	Term:	Term Ends:
Anderson	3 years	2017
Cox	1 year	2017
Cho	3 years	2019
Feinstein	3 years	2019
Frank	3 years	2017
Hardwick	3 years* *2 nd term (consecutive term)	2019
Rooker	2 years	2018
Schweisguth	2 years	2018
Zuckerman	3 years	2017