

Lexington Cooperative Market Annual Meeting Minutes 10-19-07 DRAFT

6:00 pm Meeting called to order

Tim Bartlett – GM report

- overview of past year
- highlights: ingenuity of staff to figure out resources
- profitable
- raised average wage by .50 / hr. working toward livable wage
- Member-owner survey: will shape what we work on in next year
- 40% annual sales returned to local economy
- in the coming year, we will continue to focus on putting the co-op on sound financial footing and continue to involve member-owners in visioning the future/ devising meaningful and exciting member-owner benefits

Amy Holt – President’s report

- explanation about voting
- PowerPoint presentation:

Challenges

- October storm
- Operations: freezer malfunction
- Discontinuing member work program

Accomplishments

- Member-owner/non- member survey, Staff survey, Location survey
- Member participation brainstorming sessions
- Profitability
- Paid back \$16,000 in member loans
- 500 new MO’s up to 4172
- Restructured board compensation plan
 - o \$1000
 - o 1250 vp sec treasurer
 - o 1500 president
 - o 500 if non board member

Community Contribution

- Donated more than \$3000 to local charities
- Provided assistance to Urban Roots Gardening Co-op
- World on Your Plate & World of Buffalo
- Elmwood Arts Festival

Member Activities

- Member Appreciation Day
- Holiday Open House
- Thank you to MO’s , staff, GM

By-Law Amendment – change of address from Lexington to Elmwood

Ratified: All in favor, with one opposed – questioned zip code 14222

Member Motion – Hope Hoetzer-Cook

Motion for Co-op election reform – seconded by MO #57

“Whereas serious problems in this year’s Board Elections of the Lexington Co-op make it clear that there is a need for reform in the present election system, I move that the Board of the Lexington Co-op:

- Establish a Committee of the Board responsible for accepting nominations, supervising the annual election and tallying the votes;
- That said Committee ensure that the date of the Annual Membership Meeting is not held on a day of religious obligation that could prevent members from attending the meeting;
- That the Board establish a system where ballots must be sent to the membership by a date certain, include candidate information and be returned by a date certain that allows sufficient review and mailing time;
- That the Board develop a system relying on member ID numbers where voting by the membership is confidential;
- That ballots be maintained securely and confidentially until the votes are counted; and
- That the Board notify all candidates of the place and time of the tally to enable them to be present for the count if they so choose;

And that the Membership directs the Board to take up this matter at its next scheduled Board meeting, and enact reforms addressing these concerns that are then publicized to the Membership and in place prior to the 2008 Annual Meeting.”

Comments

- According to the bylaws, the member-owners must be notified in advance of business that is to be conducted at membership meetings. We can’t amend the bylaws at this meeting. We can make recommendations to the board based on the will of this group of member-owners.
- must should be within reasonable limits
- should prevent people from voting twice
- clarify – someone could check off more votes if MO’s only votes for 2 – security
- appears to be many motions
- MO ID # must be on ballot
- Suggestion – bullets directly related to establishing committee
- Doesn’t relate to election :

Hope – Move to amend the motion to make it a recommendation to the board to board to take up these matters and report back to membership. Amendment approved by #57.

- 4 opposed
- 14 abstain

Comment – get feedback to board if opposed or abstained

Member Motion from the floor – Michael Yeh

- need more constructive dialog among MO’s w/board

- Currently have surveys, 2 cent forms, newsletter, all are one way communication, but as a democratically run organization

Proposed : “I move that the Board of Directors of the Lexington Co-op consider

- o Establishing member-owner meetings that occur jointly with the board of directors no less than four times per year
- o That all meetings are held at an accessible place and time, with adequate space for quorum and accommodations for physically handicapped persons
- o That the entire membership is notified in writing of these meetings with no less than 14 days notice
- o That the meeting minutes are recorded and made accessible to all member-owners either by mail or electronically.”

Seconded by MO#152

Discussion:

Amy – all member-owners are encouraged to attend monthly board meetings (allows one on one)

Tim – clarification : amendment to by-laws needs to be in packet prior to meeting for entire membership to consider

Michael Yeh – can be considered not as a by-law

Jenny – by-laws stated in article 4.5 each MO should have one vote – must be provided by written ballots

Jen – read by-law

Lynn – Roberts rules of order

Advisory to board – take out by-law change

Lauren – clarified friendly amendment

Joe – should go to membership

Eric – member/household vote question

Tim – person who owns the share gets one vote

Call to question

Jen – reread motion

1 opposed

15 abstained

Motion from the Floor

Hope – recommend that the time and place of votes for this election be announced to membership at meeting so that candidates / members can be present

Seconded: MO # 840

Yes – 36

No – 11

Abstained – 23

PASSED

CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

Jen Nalbome read statement from Christine, who had to leave. Siri Narayan read Randi’s statement. Jamie, Derek, Molly, Hope all gave their own statements.

7:22 - Dinner