

Natural Harvest Food Co-Op
January Meeting Held Tuesday, January 23, 2018
Board of Directors Meeting
Natural Harvest Classroom

Board Members Present: Jacob Rosandich, Kim Anderson, Megan Thiele, Darrel Swenson, Carrie Sells and Deb Meissner DeVries

Member excused: Troy Caddy

Staff Members Present: GM Anja Parenteau, Administrative Assistant Lori Maki and Marketing Manager Briana Sterle

Guest in Attendance: None

Call to Order – President Jacob called the meeting to order at 5:29 PM

GM Reports were presented first. Monthly Sales Charts were reviewed. They show an increase of a little over 20% which is a bit short of expected sales for 2017. 413 new owners were added in 2017.

Store Happenings for the past two months were shared. All were successful and the Shop Small Saturday – after Thanksgiving – was especially well received.

A motion to accept 40 new members/owners was made by Darrel and seconded by Carrie. The motion carried. One member/owner requested his equity be refunded. A motion to accept and refund the \$50 fee was made by Deb, seconded by Darrel and carried. This is the first refund in 2018.

The Marketing Plan composed by Anja and Briana was read in detail. The GM proposed making changes to the owner's perks including eliminating the monthly 5% discount and replacing it with a coupon type incentive plan. This was received by the Board favorably. Anja expects to implement the changes in April of this year.

A motion was made by Darrel and seconded by Megan to approve the November minutes. A clarification was noted that Board meals are no longer part of the Board's Budget. The motion carried.

A motion was made to amend last month's motion of the new signers for the Virginia Co-op Credit Union's Board Checking account. Instead the new signers will be President Jacob Rosandich and Treasurer Megan Thiele. Carrie made the motion and it was seconded by Kim and passed unanimously.

Log Building update – One perspective buyer had two appointments to see the property. However, nothing has come of it yet. Board Members requested that the Natural Harvest Food Coop sign on the building be taken down as soon as possible.

CDS Consulting Group Update – Monthly conference phone calls are now confirmed with the board consultant Leslie, CDS to be held on the first Monday of each month at 5pm. Next call is Feb 7th. Jake is looking for input on topics of necessity. He mentioned the abandoned equity issue as a good suggestion.

Board Calendar was revised again and provided by Jake and it is designed to help stagger the topics and issues for the monthly meetings.

Multi Year Board Goals – Discussions of which Goals should take priority occurred. The most stressed goal seems to be the Education of Board, community and owners. That all leading towards creating a Stable State of the Coop. This topic was tabled for further input and future meetings. Including the CDS consult session scheduled for Monday Feb 7th at 5pm.

Policy and Bylaws – One proposed change to Policy C9 -3 (c) – Board Member Succession - was changed to reflect that “If no party is interested or the election was not contested, the Board will appoint another Member by majority vote.” **A Motion to accept** made by Deb, seconded by Darrel and it carried. The C3 – Agenda Planning was tabled for the next meeting. No Bylaw changes will be presented at this year’s Annual Meeting.

The deadline for Board Member applications is set as Feb 15, 2018. No applications have been received as of this time. There are four open positions that need to be applied for. Three regular 3-year terms and one 2-year term. Efforts are needed by all to recruit viable members as soon as possible. Deb and Kim, **the Perpetuation Committee**, both have been working on this and exchanged notes and strategies. The applicants need to be on the ballot for the Spring Newsletter set to be sent on or around March 1st.

The Annual Meeting is set for Saturday, April 14th at 4 PM at the Virginia Elks Club. Suggestions were made for musical entertainment, theme ideas and a guest speaker. **The Education Committee Members**, Megan and Carrie are taking the lead on contacting the Elks Manager Vicky to wrap up details as needed.

The subject of another Staff Survey will be discussed at **the GM Evaluation Committee’s** next meeting. No other report was given by the Committee.

Next meeting, Tuesday, February 27th at 5:30 at NHFC. **Motion to adjourn** made by Megan. Seconded by Deb and motion carried.

