

Minutes of GCC's Board of Directors' Meeting

6 Jan 2021

Board Approved

Attending via Zoom

- Board: Bill Jones, Joe Timer, Amy Drew, Steve Bernheisel, Kim Kash, Johanna Goderre
- Co-op: Dan Gillotte

Minutes recorded by

Kim Kash

Meeting called to order

7:02 pm via Zoom

Agenda

1. Approval of agenda.
Motion to approve as distributed with no changes (Drew/Timer). Passed unanimously.

Minutes

2. Approval of minutes from last meeting.
Motion to approve as distributed with no changes (Drew/Kash). Passed unanimously.

Manager's Report

3. Manager's Report
 - No discussion or questions about the manager's report that had been distributed ahead of the meeting.

Financial Report

4. Financial report
 - Timer reported that numbers are looking good for first 22 weeks of the fiscal year. He reviewed the two sets of numbers that he shared with the board ahead of the meeting. Gillotte noted that the distributions of numbers from department to department are not quite accurate in the reports. He is working on getting those more accurate, but the totals are okay.
 - Timer cited an article saying that electronic coupons are now more popular than paper coupons. Gillotte said he thinks in-store coupons still have life, specifically those posted next to items on the shelf.

Sub-tenants

5. Sub-tenants have paid the rent. Jones said the landlord is getting anxious about getting a copy of the church's U&O permit. The county gave some leeway because of Covid, but he said they could come down on us at any time, and if fined the Co-op would end up paying them. Gillotte said we should not be responsible for paying a fine if one were to be issued. Gillotte gave Jones Pastor Abby's phone number.

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New Business

Consideration of joining the NCG cooperative.

- Jones supports the idea of joining, but is concerned about spending the money for it.
- Gillotte pointed to the more cohesive buying programs that they can help us with. For example, trying to get natural foods deals without NCG requires Co-op managers to have meetings with distributor reps, looking for deal programs, deciding what deals to bring in out of the thousand deals that are out there, and which items to choose. Those decisions are fairly time-consuming and Gillotte said the store does not have a lot of sophistication with that kind of buying. This kind of program is made for the store, more in the ballpark of what the co-op is used to doing with an easier set of decisions.
- Timer, Kash expressed support for joining. Bernheisel visited the co-op in Frederick, which is more kind of Whole Foods-like. He cautioned against excluding people by raising quality and prices. Because the co-op is held by our C&S contract, he suggested trying to negotiate some terms with NCG that would be better for the co-op until the end of the C&S contract.
- Gillotte said that after the last meeting, because there were some concerns about pricing, he discussed this with NCG and he said it more or less was a non-starter. Other co-ops are in a similar position and do not get discounts.
- Drew said she was in favor of joining. This will position the co-op for the plans that Gillotte has going forward and also, because Gillotte has such a wealth of knowledge/experience of this organization, the store can take full advantage of membership from day one.
- Timer noted they require a monthly P&L statement. Gillotte said they will make an exception for some time, but ultimately he wants to have a monthly report anyway.
- The board made a motion for a resolution supporting their participation in NCG and authorizing our general manager to act on the co-op's behalf in decision making (Timer/Goderre). Passed unanimously.

Discussion of future operational opportunities

- The board and Dan discussed future operational projects and the board encouraged him to continue with the process.

Consideration of Dan's Fiscal Year Business Plan

- The board will talk about the business plan at the end of the month when Gettie Audain can join us.

Consideration of Board Policies Concerning the General Manager

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- A motion was made to approve the board policies (Kash/Timer). The motion passed unanimously.

Consideration of a Board Ethics document

- Gillotte said that this document, which talks about expectations of the board, should be signed every year by the new board at its formation meeting.
- A motion was made to approve the Board Ethics document (Jones/Bernheisel). The motion passed unanimously.

Consideration of buying the building the Coop is in

- Goderre said that Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks has brought some political will behind this kind of project, and might be additional resources available to us, as she was with Community Forklift. Bernheisel offered to join Kash on this committee, and Kash was designated as chair. Kash said she would contact Audain to see whether she has any interest in joining the committee.
- A motion was made to establish the task force (Kash/Bernheisel). The motion passed unanimously.

Reconstituting the Nominations Committee

- Jones noted that the by-laws require a nominations committee. Gillotte said the nominations committee ought to have a system and a program in order to let people know that the co-op needs/wants board members, and to educate people about what it is to be a board member.
- A motion was made to adjourn (Drew/Bernheisel). The motion passed unanimously.

End Time

Open meeting adjourned at 8:42 pm.

Next meeting Jan. 27