

## MINUTES

FBFC Board of Directors Meeting 5-21-15

Meeting started at 5:34 pm and ended at 8:03 pm.

**Board members present:** Justina Prenatt (President), Danielle Goldstein (Vice President), Bob LeRoy (Treasurer), Jennifer Heeder (Secretary), Sarah Oram, Kelly Fain, Josh Littlejohn, Rosemary Fletcher, Daav Wheeler

**Board members absent:** Alanna Hibbard, Pauline Heyne

**Others present:** Bobby Sullivan, General Manager (GM); Sage Turner, Finance Manager; Clare Schwartz, Outreach Coordinator; Jean Karpen, Board assistant

### Meeting Summary:

- Expansion update
- Final planning for Annual Owners' Meeting
- Capital Campaign Committee report
- GM Report
- Monitoring reports reviewed & approved
- Quarterly theme discussion for June is Pollinators

### Calendar Dates:

- May 23 – March Against Monsanto local event
- May 28 – 9:00 am Capital Campaign Committee
- June 7 – 2:30 to 4:30 pm Annual Owners' Meeting at 76 Biltmore

**Approve Agenda:** Agenda was approved as presented.

**Minutes of 4-16-15** were approved as presented.

**Owner Comments:** none

**Expansion update:** Sage has been in contact with representatives of the Brattleboro Co-op, which has recently renovated an older building- a situation similar to ours. Board members are asked to let Sage know if they have any questions for the Brattleboro reps.

There was a discussion about the possibility of including affordable housing in our expansion plans.

- How to subsidize? One possibility is to offer high-end as well.
- Note - some downtown condos & apartments are inhabited only a few weeks per year.
- An agency, such as Mountain Housing Opportunities, would oversee the housing aspect.
- “Workforce” housing is not necessarily affordable; some “affordable” housing is not affordable.
- For our definition, affordable should mean an FBFC employee making a living wage would be able to live there.
- Consider affordable rent for office space, artist studios, small businesses, etc. Grants may be available to help with this.
- We are considering having a feasibility study done regarding housing needs in our area.
- First step is to get the study from CDC (Civil Design Concepts).

### Annual Meeting:

- For break out groups, take 5 ideas from the community input meeting & expand on those – build on what we already have.
- “How do we fulfill the vision of creating community while still maintaining a natural foods store?”
- Concern – haven't we already done this? Will there be anything to add?
- Sarah & Daav will look at vote tallies from the community input meeting and will suggest 5 topics for break out groups. They will email suggestions; final decision about topics via email.

- It was originally suggested that the agenda for annual meeting be approved via email within the next 48 hours with suggestions sent to Justina. However, near the end of the meeting, Justina revamped the break out group topics for six groups. All agreed and the agenda for the meeting was approved.
  - Topics for break out sessions: 1. a community hub & cafe 2. an environmentally sustainable building 3. greenspace (possible food production, bee raising) 4. education and community outreach 5. stores/offices/affordable housing 6. a local/cooperative business incubator
- Clare will send out another email reminder. Justina will prepare the email to include:
  - rsvp for child care
  - location
  - meal
  - draft agenda
  - deadline for Board application is June 6
  - reminder - no floor nominations
- Bobby will put out a call to staff for written stories & pictures – co-op history.
- Renters at 76 Biltmore will provide music.
- Proposed bylaws amendments (see attached) – Board approved; Bob will present info at the meeting.
- Voting – ballots will be sent out by June 15; must be returned (postmarked) by July 15.
- Need to figure out how to enter co-op number on the ballot or envelope.
- It is allowable for staff to serve on the Board.
- Suggestion to look into using Survey Monkey, or something similar, for voting.
- Danielle will ask Desiree Adaway to facilitate again this year.

#### **Capital Campaign Committee:**

- Committee will give a brief presentation at the annual meeting - "introduction to opportunities for owner investment in expansion".
- Give examples of what other successful co-ops have done.
- Consider a "fresh" term other than capital campaign.
- Let owners know we will be asking for investment; we will be calling; and volunteers will be needed. Give an approximate time line.

#### **GM Report:**

- Regarding the owner survey, please send any suggestions to Bobby.
- Bobby reported on his recent trip to Washington, DC to lobby Congress regarding GMO labeling.

**Monitoring Reports:** 2.1 Treatment of Consumers, 2.2 Treatment of Staff, and 2.3 Financial Condition and Activities. All reports were deemed reasonable and acceptable.

#### **Discussion of quarterly theme – Pollinators**

- Justina will send information on two resources - "More than Honey" and "Queen of the Sun."
- Discussion will take place at the June Board meeting.

**Miscellaneous:** There was a question about quarterly giving to non-profits – rounding up at the register. If we are going to reactivate this, we need signage rather than cashier intervention.

**Next Meeting will be June 18, 2015 at 5:30 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Jean Karpen, Board Assistant