Draft Minutes
French Broad Food Coop
Annual Owners' Meeting
June 30, 2013

Board members present: Will Kaylor (President), Aja Wright, (Vice-President), Bob LeRoy (Treasurer), Justina Prenatt (Secretary), Stephen Smith, Jennifer Heeder Gustafson, Alanna Hibbard, Alisa Kuumba Zuwena, Sarah Oram

The meeting started at 3:06 pm. A **quorum** of owners was not present initially. Informational aspects of the meeting proceeded, but no action was taken until approximately 4:30, at which time a quorum was present (45 required).

Meeting Summary:

- **Welcome comments from Board President Will Kaylor**
- **Minutes of 2012 and 2007 Annual meetings were approved**
- **Worker Owner committee report**
- **Finance Committee report**
- **General Manager's (GM) Report, attached**
- **Owner Comments**
- **Board candidates introduced**
- **Voting procedures reviewed**

Motion to suspend Robert's Rules of Order was approved and attendees agreed to proceed using consensus for decision-making.

Agenda: The agenda was reviewed, no concerns expressed. After quorum was reached, agenda was approved.

Welcome message from Board President Will Kaylor encouraged owners to apply for Board positions and recognized the Bylaws Committee for the tremendous amount of work they have done.

Minutes of the June 16, 2012 Annual Owners' Meeting were approved as presented. Minutes of the 2007 Annual Owners' Meeting were also approved.

Worker Owner Committee: The committee has been meeting for a couple of months, working on a plan for making the program better. The goal is to be of value to the co-op and to provide owners with a meaningful experience. Many details must be worked out in order for the program to operate smoothly, avoid liability, and not violate conditions of the union contract.

Finance Committee: The committee is working on hiring an auditor. We will obtain three proposals from auditing firms from which to choose. This audit will provide accountability that the co-op's finances are held to a high standard.

GM Report: Separate document labeled “FBFC annual meeting Minutes 2013-06-30 addendum GM report

Rusty Sivils asked where we stand on our mortgage. We currently owe approximately $70,000. The mortgage will be paid off at the end of 2015.

Regarding long-range planning, the market study update will be done by the end of July, 2013.

Owner Comments:

- Jude Weinberg: The issue I've been having is that there are brands we carry that are contributing to forces working against our principles. Can we try to find other sources? Are there other brands? Lets look at ways to steer away from "trader" brands.
- Marcia Reisman: There is a documentary called "Genetic Roulette," a frightening movie about GMOs. I don't know how much education the co-op does. Why couldn't we show that movie here?
- Julian Dominic: It sounds like we need a food and justice film series. Tom Lewellen is knowledgeable about GMOs. He is starting the Asheville Tool Library which will share space with the Recyclery. (Will leave contact info if you have questions.)
- Bob Leroy: We generally see initiatives from owners where the owners take a leadership role to make something happen. I encourage you to get in contact with Board members to make your desires known.
- Justina Prenatt: I also encourage owners to participate in Board meetings. We meet the third Thursday of each month at 5:30 in the Movement & Learning Center upstairs.
- Bobby Sullivan: The issue of GMOs is more complex than you may think. We all have to pay attention to labeling.
- Will Kaylor: Most of this is overseeing and enforcing the product policy we have in place. It's hard to monitor the vast number of products we carry.
- Aja Wright: The staff is working as hard as they can, so perhaps worker-owners could do labeling of this sort. If we find products that are not in compliance with our product policy, they will be taken off the shelf.
- Kelly Fain: The current product policy is on the website under "Products" heading.
- Justina: Worker-owners could help with a phone bank. It's frustrating to go through this every year (trying to get a quorum at the annual meeting).
- Morna Childers: I wonder if it would help to provide child care? I'm willing to help set that up.
- Joanna Walsh: An email or text message on the day before or the day of the meeting would help.
- Kasha Baxter: A mandate of the Board is to get membership involvement. This could be a focus of the worker-owner committee.
- Scot Quaranda: In the past, the best-attended meetings were the ones that were held at a location other than here at the store.

Board Elections:

- Voting will be by paper ballot only. Ballots will be mailed to owners and may be returned by mail or dropped off here in the store.
- Postcards were mailed to all owners announcing this meeting and outlining dates for balloting as follows:
  - Ballots and instructions will be mailed to owners (in good standing as of 5-31-13) by 7-5-13.
  - Ballots must be received back at the co-op by 7-31-13.
  - Owners may vote for 5 candidates.
- The following Board candidates introduced themselves:
  - Alisa Kuumba Zuwena (incumbent)
  - Jennifer Gustafson (incumbent)
  - Bob LeRoy (incumbent)
  - Justina Prenatt (incumbent)
  - Johanna Kerr
  - Pauline Heyne

- **NOTE: A**dditional candidates have the right, until June 30, to declare candidacy and submit an application.
- There were two nominations from the floor: Kelly Fain and Claire Schwartz (Before the ballot was prepared and mailed, Clare declined the nomination and her name did not appear on the ballot.)
- Morna stated that, last year, we had to make last-minute plans to count ballots. Please plan in advance.
- The following owners volunteered to help count ballots this year. Jean Karpen will coordinate ballot-counting.
  - Morna Childers
  - Bette Jackson
  - Sandy Jones
  - Nina Lantis
  - Joanna Walsh
  - Joan Worth

Quorum was achieved at approximately 4:30 pm.

Closing remarks: Will encouraged owners to attend Board meetings, especially those who have expressed concerns. He thanked owners for attending and thanked Bobby and the staff for their hard work.
Justina extended thanks to Aja Wright (who will be exiting the Board) for her many years of dedication to the Board. She has been an asset to the Board.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jean Karpen, Board assistant