



April Board Meeting Recap — submitted by Colin Fiske, Board President

Midterm Board Seat Appointment

Four members responded to our call for letters of interest to fill the empty Board seat. The four candidates all attended the April board meeting and made brief statements. The Board agreed that it was a very strong candidate pool. We later discussed and voted on the appointment in executive session and reported back that we have appointed Ivy North to fill the seat. Ivy has a long history of involvement in our local food system and will bring that knowledge and passion to the Board. Ivy will hold the seat only until this fall's elections, unless she chooses to run again and is re-elected.

GM Search Updates

The Board finalized its approval of a set of "ideal candidate" qualities for the General Manager position. The list is the same as the one I sent out after last month's meeting, except that we added one additional personal attribute, suggested by a Co-op employee: "concern for the community in which we live." The Board also approved a salary range of \$85-\$115,000. As a reminder, we are conducting a GM search because Melanie's current contract expires this fall. In the meantime, Melanie continues to be our GM, and she has indicated that she intends to re-apply for the position.

Finances

Review of the financial benchmarks revealed that we are making steady progress, through the hard work of staff and the support of our members. Still, we need to see more improvement before we can be confident in our long-term financial health.

National Co-op Grocers (NCG) withdrew their prior proposal to send a "Development Advisor" to perform a comprehensive assessment and offer advice on our operations and finances. However, NCG specialists continue to work with management and various departments to offer suggestions for improvement.

Consent Agenda Actions

The Board approved several items referred from committees in its consent agenda, including:

1. A direction to staff to discuss how to streamline local product sales.
2. A direction to staff to investigate how to provide cross-training opportunities for employees after a certain period of employment.
3. A new election policy of posting the names of interested applicants for board positions as they apply, to better inform other potential candidates about who's running.

The full minutes will be available in the May Board meeting packet. You can get a copy of the board packet at the customer service desk about a week before the board meeting, or by email if you request it by emailing emilywalter@northcoast.coop. If you have questions about anything the Board is doing, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Next Board Meeting

Thursday, May 2 at the Arcata Playhouse.