



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes September 1, 2022 • 6 – 8pm Zoom Call

Present at meeting:

Board Members: Roger (President), Kirsten Lindquist (Treasurer), Thomas Wehland, Humnath Panta (Secretary), Pamela Lee (Vice President), Laura Jones, Alexandra Profant

Absent Board Members:

Co-op Employees: Sean Nolan, Emily Walter, Alex Villagrana, Barney Doyle, Kiya Villarreal

Member-owners: Brenda Harper, Mike Connors, Kathleen Pelley

1. **Welcome**

The meeting was called to order at 6:06 by Roger and introductions were made.

2. **Agenda Review and Approval**

Agenda approved by consensus.

3. **Approve August 4, 2022, Board Minutes**

Motion: Approve the August 4, 2022, board minutes.
Approved by consensus.

4. **Member Comment Period**

- Brenda – I believe people enjoy a paper newsletter. It’s hard to keep up with what’s going on at the Co-op. Lately I feel like we are just a grocery store and it used to feel like we are more than a grocery store. Other Co-ops have newsletters and activities. I also don’t see a whole lot on social media.
 - o Alex – we do have a monthly newsletter, but we don’t mail them out.
 - o Kiya – what I hear is that the personable side of the Co-op News is missing. That we need more articles from staff to the members.
 - o Roger – I think those in Humboldt County value newsletters, like EcoNews and Food For People’s newsletter.
- Roger – I spoke with a former board member. They wanted to know that we had a manager we could get along with. This person shops more at Wildberries because they get 10% every day. They view the Co-op as more of a specialty store.
- Kirsten – maybe the board could do some kind of member survey to get a feel for what they’re looking for, perhaps in the new year. I’m curious to get more data.

5. **Board Correspondence**

None

6. **Post Retreat Follow-up**

The board and management recently met for an in-person retreat. Roger reviewed some of the notes from the retreat.

Top Priorities

1. Motivate people to vote.
 - o Kirsten - the board could table at the stores to encourage people to vote.
 - o Thomas – if we want people to vote is to put something they don’t like on the ballot. When there is nothing to vote for other than for board of directors, it’s not as appealing to vote. We also need more education about the importance of the board of directors and it’s function.
 - o Perhaps the NCG has information about the importance of boards and of voting.
- ACTION:** Sean will look into this.

- Laura – anyone on social media should share Co-op posts that encourage voting.
- 2. Communicate the cool stuff that the Co-op does for its members - community impact, vendor spotlights, visual presentation of cool stuff.
- 3. Newsletter - continue to investigate the best way to make this accessible, including format and style.
- Roger – wants further discussion about being a board member (compensation, needed skills, expectations, etc.).

AGREEMENT: The Policies and Procedures committee will review this.

7. Financial Bottom Line – reported by Barney

At the August board meeting we discussed Period 2. We don't have the balance sheet yet for Period 3, the end of the quarter. The balance sheet will be affected by the Fiscal Year 2022 audit, and until the audit is approved by the board, we can't move forward with completing Period 3. We recently received a draft of the audit and are now ready to bring it to the Finance Committee.

8. Finance Committee Update – reported by Kirsten

The August Finance Committee meeting was cancelled because the audit wasn't ready for review. Now that the audit is ready for review it's decided that the Finance Committee will meet Wednesday, September at 6-7:30pm. A Special Board Meeting will be held directly following the Finance Committee meeting so that the audit can be approved if they feel comfortable doing so.

9. Nominating Committee Report – reported by Thomas

The Nominating Committee approved seven board applications. One of the applicants has since withdrawn their application, leaving us with six candidates.

10. Renovation Update – reported by Sean

Things are ramping up and moving along as planned as we prepare for implementations in Arcata.

11. GM Report – reported by Sean

- The union bargaining agreement is officially ratified and is now in effect. This is a three-year contract.
 - Kirsten – I helped count the votes and it was overwhelmingly ratified with a high percentage of votes.
- Kathleen – How are the Tesla batteries going.
 - Sean – the batteries are currently switched off and are being tested so they can hopefully repair them.
- Roger – I saw something about a bike shed that we purchased locally. A reminder that I'm sure there are bike clubs around here that would have like to build the bike shed. There are people in our community that like to give to the Co-op.
- Pamela – Are bulk days scheduled for certain months?
 - Sean – They are scheduled for twice a year.

12. Member Comment

- Roger - There is an outreach effort for single payer health care. They have invited us to participate.

13. New Business (items for next agenda):

- 2022 Election Update
- Annual Membership Meeting Update
- Renovation Update

Consensus reached to adjourn the September 1, 2022, meeting at 7:10pm and move into Executive Session.

Minutes by Emily Walter

**North Coast Co-op
Board of Directors Executive Session Minutes
September 1, 2022**

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Absent Board Members:

Co-op Employees: Sean Nolan

No reportable action taken.

Executive Session ended at 7:35pm