



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

Present at meeting:

Board Members: Kirsten Lindquist (President), Brenda Harper (Vice President), Thomas Wehland (Secretary), Humnath Panta (Treasurer), Roger, Mike Connors, Laura Jones

Absent Board Members:

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

Member-owners: Kathleen Pelley

1. **Welcome**

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 by Kirsten and introductions were made.

2. **Agenda Review and Approval**

Agenda approved by consensus.

3. **Approve November 2022 Board Minutes**

Motion: Approve the November 2022 board minutes.

Motion by Humnath, 2nd from Mike, all approved (7/0/0)

4. **Member Comment Period**

- Roger – Nezzie from AHHA communicated with me about the Co-op wanting Seeds for Change organizations to donate prize for encouragement to cashiers. She was concerned about what happens to organizations that can't afford to make prize donations?
 - o Emily – I do encourage all organizations to donate prizes for cashiers as a way to encourage them to ask customers to round up. As far as organizations being able to afford to do so, I feel like when we can guarantee that each organization is going to make a minimum of \$8,000, that they can afford to make a small donation of prizes and consider that donation a fundraising expense. Additionally, the Co-op does have its own ways of helping to encourage cashiers to participate in asking customers to round up.
- Roger – Jody Ellis noticed staff get a large discount, but members don't.
- Roger – Co-op basics - there is a peanut butter in plastic and one in glass. The one in plastic is cheaper. I would like to see if it's possible to work with vendors or pricing to make the glass jar cheaper than the plastic jar.
- Kirsten – I was really impressed by the hot bar in Arcata Thanksgiving week.
- Mike – I heard that the Co-op recently was very accommodating to hire someone with occupational challenges and I was really impressed by that.

5. **Board Correspondence**

- Kirsten – the board received an email from Holly Sage about Eureka Natural Foods promoting a sale of 25% everything in their store for two days and wanted to know how that impacts the Co-op.
 - o Roger – yes, I think it will impact the store. That's how sales work. And when the Co-op has a sale it impacts other stores.
- Alex – Is the current board interested in providing a communication to members to include in the Co-op News. It doesn't have to only be about what happens at the board meetings, but can include general things that are happening with the Co-op.
 - o Kirsten – I plan to write something that I will email to staff and could be included with the Newsletter.

- Alex – we’ve been discussing ways to get more people to board meetings. Why should members attend board meetings? What’s in it for them?
 - o Mike – if members were attending, they might be more interested in running for the board.
 - o Kirsten – I would like to invite our Business Partners to attend Board meetings. I would like to highlight businesses that shop at the Co-op. Not necessarily Business Partners, but highlighting local businesses and why they choose to shop at the Co-op.
 - o Mike – we’ve been discussing the past 50 years, but I’m also interested in discussing the next 50 years.

6. Renovation Update

Renovations are complete in Arcata, excluding baseboards. Eureka production flooring is scheduled to be done in January. Customers are enjoying the updates.

7. Financial Bottom Line – reported by Barney

P7 is not complete yet. We decided to not do a physical inventory at the end of December. Instead, we will estimate the inventory.

8. Finance Committee – reported by Humnath

The finance committee met in November with the following recommendations to the board.

Motion: Approve the November 2022 Finance Committee minutes.
Kirsten motioned, 2nd from Thomas, motion passed (7/0/0).

Motion: Approve the Fiscal Year 2023 Quarter 2 Financials.
Thomas motioned, 2nd from Laura, motion passed (7/0/0).

9. Board Directives to Staff

Tabled to January meeting.

10. GM Report

- Roger – I would like to know if Covid is still impacting the store as far as staff missing work.
 - o Thomas/Kirsten – there are still some absences due to Covid but anecdotally, I believe other illnesses are now contributing more to absences than Covid.

14. Member Comment

- Brenda – I’m disappointed that the Arcata coffee bar has minimal hours. The hot bar is closed early as well. I now go to Ramone’s in Wildberries.
 - o Kiya – the coffee bar in Eureka is completely closed.
- Laura – the Greenhouse in Arcata is wonderful. I enjoyed a hot drink, scone and the New York Times.
- Roger – a lot has changed in 50 years. When the Co-op started it was almost impossible to get organic and bulk elsewhere. We need to look to the younger generations to see what they want to see happen moving forward.
- Kathleen – I’m tired of the black beans at the hot bar. I want pinto beans or refried beans.
- Kirsten – I would like to advertise board meetings in the calendar of the North Coast Journal.

ACTION: Kiya will add charts to the Env. & Social Benchmarks.

15. New Business (items for next agenda):

- Quarterly Strategic Plan Update
- 50th Year Anniversary
- Board Directives to Staff
- Discuss why members should attend Board meetings.

Consensus reached to adjourn the December 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
November 3, 2022**

Present at meeting:

Board Members: Roger (President), Thomas Wehland, Humnath Panta (Secretary), Laura Jones, Kirsten Lindquist (Treasurer), Brenda Harper, Michael Connors

Absent Board Members:

Co-op Employees: Sean Nolan

No reportable action taken.

Executive Session ended at 7:33pm