



Earth Action Committee

Minutes – June 13, 2018

Ten Pin Building Mezzanine, Arcata

Board Members present: Colin Fiske, Cheri Strong, Leah Stamper (arrived at agenda item 3)

Member-Employees present: Emily Walter, Laurie Talbert, Kiya Villarreal, Lauren Fawcett

Members present: Brenda Harper

1. Welcomes and Review

At 6:51pm the meeting was called to order by board member Colin.

2. Approve Minutes

Energy planning – change small scale to medium scale.

Consensus reached to approve the May 2018 minutes.

3. Member Comments

Brenda – gives a shout out to Rogers methods of cooperative business.

The group discussed having more outreach about our solar energy at the co-op.

On behalf of overhearing shoppers in Eureka – why is basil packaged in plastic at the Eureka store? People are upset about this. It's not packaged in Arcata.

ACTION: Lauren will investigate bagging of herbs at the Eureka store.

4. Transportation Survey – Reported by Laurie

Surveying started in June with 4 sessions completed at the Arcata store. 92 surveys were completed from the four sessions with positive response from shoppers. The last 4 sessions were postponed due to the Arcata roof being redone. Should have the surveys wrapped up in October.

- Colin would like to play with the data once it's all collected.

5. Mission Linen & Solar Planning – Reported by Kiya

The Facilities Department is exploring ways to switch to 100% renewable energy. They hope to accomplish this by changing the way in which supplies are ordered for the stores. One proposal is for supplies to be purchased by the warehouse and then transferred to the stores. The department is working to condense orders, order in larger quantities and simplify by only offering one type of paper towel, versus two.

- Cheri – suggests getting linen and paper product quotes from competitors to attempt to get a lower cost with current suppliers.

- It will take ~\$1,400 savings monthly to compensate for switching to 100% renewable energy. Aside from saving money from supply costs, more efficient light bulbs should additionally decrease energy costs.

- RCEA is putting together a PowerPoint presentation for the Co-op to watch about ways to collaborate on energy efficiency.

6. No Cars on the Plaza – Reported by Colin

The City of Arcata Transportation Safety Committee has been discussing the idea of car free days on the Arcata Plaza. Colin hopes Mary Ella will be able give this committee an update on the committees plans at the July meeting.

7. Sustainability Update – Reported by Kiya

- Marketing team is working on durable use information for shoppers.

- Working to educate all cashiers about the size of durables sold in the store along with conversion charts.

- We also need to make sure that all durables sold in the store are labeled with sizes.
- Marketing is working on giving the bulk department a facelift.
- Colin – bulk thought – have giveaways to every 200th bulk container being used.
- Strawless summer is coming back.
- Kiya will be representing the Co-op at “Get Out and Play Day” at the Eureka Zoo as well as the Eureka Arts and Cultural Festival
- Film plastic recycling – The Co-op currently has no way of recycling film plastic and it’s currently being disposed of in the trash. We can now start giving our film plastic to the local Walmart and they will bale it and sell it to companies like Trex. Trex creates decking and other materials from the recycled plastic. There is potential that the Co-op could become a film plastic hub for local film plastic collection and sell it ourselves while partnering with other businesses like Recology.

8. Agreements

No recommendations to the board.

9. Next Agenda Items

- No cars on the plaza
- Sustainability update

10. Review: Next meeting will be July 11, 6:45-8pm.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:10pm (*Minutes by Emily Walter*)