



June Board Meeting Recap – submitted by James Kloor

Opening Up the Discussion

In an attempt to better engage our members, the Board of Directors voted last month to change up the agenda and meeting structure. We chose to institute a consent calendar which allows the board to run through a lot of transactional material in a shorter time span. Our hope is to fill some of that newly freed up time with discussion topics (and to offer shorter meetings). The June board meeting was the first to utilize the new structure, and the discussion that ensued was engaging, and in my opinion, everything that the Co-op is meant to be.

We were lucky to have thoughtful members in attendance who offered their input, along with the boards, to discuss a few topics – how to strategically develop new projects, and online shipping/delivery options. I'm always amazed at the power and complexity of ideas that groups of people can bring to the table. Ultimately, both discussions illuminated the need for tighter integration of the Strategic Plan with our business model, as well as better involvement of members to gauge their desired avenues for growth or change. It also highlighted the importance of creating the space for this type of conversation to happen. Time for clarity building is important. Without it we operate in the dark.

Discussions like these are to be a standing item at board meetings, and there is always member comment period. We'd love to hear your thoughts and ideas on how to continually improve the Co-op.

Adding Value

An interesting topic that came up in member comment period is that of adding value. I love this topic, as to me it's where the Co-op really shines. What other grocery store can you democratically participate in shaping their outcomes and priorities? What other grocery store even has other outcomes and priorities other than selling great food? I'm lucky enough to have served on the Vision & Goals Committee, where during the strategic planning process we often talked about what it means to be more than a grocery store that sells great food. We focus on environmental impacts through our Earth Action Committee, we work to make sure our members have a voice through the Member Action Committee, and through our myriad of other committees we ensure member participation in every facet of the Co-op, even the finances. And I trust that even if I don't attend those meetings, the Co-op is still thinking about and working by the Cooperative Principles (http://northcoast.coop/about_us/our_story/cooperative_principles.php). To me, that's adding value in the Co-op.

Future Meetings & Committees

As always, please join us for one of our committee meetings or come to the board meeting every first Thursday of the month at 6pm at the Ten Pin Building at 793 K Street in Arcata. Meeting agendas are posted one week in advance of meetings and can be found on the Co-op website at http://northcoast.coop/about_us/board/board_of_directors_minutes_agendas.php, in the quarterly Co-op News, and in the stores. We'd love to see you there, and hear your thoughts regarding our Co-op.