



## Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

April 9, 2026 • 6pm

Arcata Co-op & Zoom

### **Present at meeting:**

**Board Members:** Elizabeth/Lizzy Gahm (Vice President/Employee Director), George WinterSun, Layla Richardson (President), Hayley Simera (Secretary), Mike Connors (Treasurer), Jon Haumeder

**Absent Board Members:** Michael Cahill (Employee Director)

**Co-op Employees:** Emily Walter, Sean Nolan, Kiya Villarreal

**Member-owners:** Kyle Finger, Alex Stillman, Joy Plath, Joanne McGary, Moonlight Macumber, Kathleen Pelly

### **1. Welcome**

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 by Layla and introductions were made.

### **2. Agenda Review**

The agenda was reviewed.

### **3. Approve March 12, 2026 Board Minutes**

Minutes approved by consensus.

### **4. Owner Comment Period**

- Joanne – I recently asked to find out when plant toilet paper would be restocked. I left messages and nobody at the store ever responded to my request. It's hard to see the name of some of the bulk items because the labels are cluttered. I'd like easier to read bulk labels. Bike month is May and once again I'm asking for expanded bicycle parking in the first three parking spaces at the front of the building. I want to make it more bike welcoming. Can the Co-op promote summertime reusables for the Bright and Green company? I see you're expanding a lot of non-grocery items, like books and socks. A local retail owner was surprised the co-op is doing this and competing with other businesses on their products.
- Jon – Roger asked me to speak for him. He's advocating for past long-term employees to get the golden discount. Also, Roger doesn't want to see single toilet paper sold in plastic.

### **5. Board Correspondence – reported by Layla**

None.

### **6. City of Arcata Gateway Plan – guest speaker Alex Stillman**

The City of Arcata gateway plan is finished and has been adopted. You have a large vacant lot where you parking is. There are many options for building the parking lot up. You could put housing above the parking lot. I just wanted to offer ideas to think about for the future. Joyce Plath said she could sketch some ideas of possibilities.

- Joy – I've been working on planning here for 40 years. The Co-op could be a positive influence.
- Mike – I think it's a great idea to have dense housing near downtown Arcata. It would be great for the Co-op as well.

**7. Finance Committee** – reported by M. Connors

The Finance committee was presented with the draft fiscal year 2027 budget. The committee thinks this is a realistic budget with a larger projected profit margin than the previous fiscal year. I'm cautiously optimistic that this is a good budget to move forward with.

**Motion:** Approve the Fiscal Year 2027 budget.  
Motion by Mike, 2<sup>nd</sup> from Haley, motion approved (6/0/0).

**Motion:** Approve the March 2026 Finance Committee minutes.  
Approved by consensus

**8. GM Report** – reported by Sean

- We had our big 20% off spring owner sale which went well. We surpassed our sale goals for the day and are waiting to see how the discounts affected the margins. Sales were down the week preceding and following the sale but it still looks like a big growth with the sale overall. We had our inventory count the week following the sale.
- We updated the public bathroom at the Arcata store.
- The new website has launched.
  
- Lizzy – I wonder if opening the store one hour earlier on the big sale day would be helpful.
- Layla – How did the last business partner sale go?
  - o Kiya – They had 13 redemptions but people who did shop there spent more than the average shopper. Most people heard about it from the A-Frames that are in front of the Co-op. Both participating businesses were both happy for the opportunity to participate in the program.
- Joanna – I'm going to explore different types of shopping carts that are less noisy and potentially with breaks.

**9. Owner Comment**

- Joanne – I would like the Co-op to look at the City of Arcata's Regional Climate Action Plan to be a leader in implementing it. Sustainability issues are important and I want the Co-op to be future thinking and future modeling on climate action and sustainability.

**10. New Business (items for next agenda):**

Next Board Meeting is Thursday, May 14 at 6pm

Agenda Items:

- Finance Committee
- Elections Committee

Consensus reached to adjourn the April 9, 2026, meeting at 6:53pm and move into Executive Session.  
*Minutes by Emily Walter*



**North Coast Co-op  
Board of Directors Executive Session Minutes  
April 9, 2026**

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**Absent Board Members:** Michael Cahill (Employee Director)

**Co-op Employees:** Sean Nolan

No reportable action.

Executive Session ended at 7:40pm.