



Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

March 26, 2026

Zoom

Present at meeting

Finance Committee: Mike Connors (Treasurer), Chris Copple (Member at Large), Diane Sharples (Member at Large), James Kloor (Member at Large), Elizabeth (Lizzy) Gahm

Board Members: Hayley Simera, Layla Richardson, George WinterSun

Staff: Emily Walter, Sean Nolan, Barney Doyle

Members:

1. Welcome. Introductions. Agenda Review.

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

2. FY27 Budget – reported by Sean

Sean reviewed the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2027 and compared it to the Fiscal year 2026 budget. This budget shows a profit of \$600k. Based on sales this fiscal year, I believe the proposed budget is attainable.

- Mike – I see that Payroll and Benefits is the same as last year. Can you explain this.
 - o Sean – Benefits are lower due to some changes in policies. Payroll covers the same headcount of staff, so even with increases in pay the number is about the same.
- James – I was surprised that there is no increase in COGS, accounting for inflation.
 - o Sean – The way COGS is budgeted is percentage based. Inflation is factored in based on percentage and sales/margins get adjusted when COGS go up.
- Mike – I’m sad that we’re achieving a positive bottom line through a slowly shrinking store (selling less). I’d like to see more customers buying more things.
 - o Sean – We are striving for growth and increased sales but as far as the budget I like to take an attainable approach. Morale is hurt when departments can’t meet their goals. We’d love to get more shoppers and see the bottom line beat this budget.
- Haley – Where does the biggest risk lie and are there any large operational expenses planned?
 - o Sean – I would say sales. We’ve planned for increased sales, but we don’t have full control of that. We don’t have anything major planned as far as operational expenses. We still need to redo the Arcata roof, but it’s not planned for this upcoming fiscal year.
- Mike – I want to hear if there is anything that Barney is worried about.
 - o Barney – Sales is our number one goal and concern. Humboldt has a relatively finite population. Without new people coming in we’re limited to getting people to shop with us instead of our competitors.

MOTION: Recommend the Board approve the Fiscal Year 2027 budget.
Motion by James, 2nd by Diane. All in favor, motion approved (5/0/0).

3. FY26 Audit Update – reported by Barney

We have our year end fiscal inventory this weekend. The auditor will do video monitoring during the inventory. We plan to complete all interviews with the auditors in early June. I believe the audit should be completed mid-August.

4. Owner Comments

- Mike – At our next meeting I would like to see if there are additional KPIs to add to our benchmark trends.

5. Set Future FC Meeting Date and Agenda Items

Next Meeting: Thursday, May 7

Agenda Items:

- Patronage Refund Discussion
- Benchmark Trend Updates

6. Meeting Adjourns

Consensus reached to adjourn the March 26, 2026, meeting at 6:42pm.

Minutes submitted by Emily Walter.