

4/22/25

UVFC Board April Meeting

APPROVED Minutes

Board Attendance: Zea Luce, Tina Barney, Kat Flynn, Rio Pires, Kerry Rosenthal, Kate Rohdenburg, Pamela Perkins, Sam Sukumar, Laura Di Piazza

Board Absence: Chris Sneddon

GM Attendance: Darrion Whalen

Member Attendance: none

Notetaker: Zea Luce

Agenda & Announcements:

- Quick go-round of check-ins
- Announcement - Kat will be taking a new job in NY and would plan to stay on the board for the time being via Zoom
- Board emails: none
- Members present/comments: none
- Agenda amendments:
- Reading of the Ends

Last Month's Meeting Minutes:

- No changes
- Approved

GM Update:

- Some hiring happening and open positions, someone new has started
- Spring products are here; more veg starts coming
- NCG new products low risk popping up in store
- Vendor fair today - good attendance, weather
 - Tina mentioned a new member and speaking with others about membership and board opportunity
 - People appreciated local vendors
- NCG's spring conference in DC - productive, informative - learned about costs rising of some specific products, have already seen some higher costs for olive oil; co-ops as local cornerstones in communities; will get money back from NCG later this year
- Side conversation about supporting farmers losing exports and institutional markets - freezing surplus and the infrastructure that food hubs offer
- Reminder next vendor fair in August and ice cream social
- Financials - clarified dividend amount from our membership in other coops

Other: Audit research from Kate - reached out to 3 and had conversation with one that seemed most aligned (does audits for other small coops) - she thought we weren't ready for an audit and suggested a review instead. Gold standard is to do an audit every year. Don't flip back and forth between review and audits, not just audits periodically. Would need to change our policy. Review is a third of audit in terms of the amount of work/data and less cost. Quotes are \$20k+. Our systems are not easily accessible by a third party with so much still on paper. There are people you can hire to help get ready. Question of whether annually is necessary or how often. Could focus on getting systems upgraded to more easily hire a bookkeeper and have this process be easier. NCG would like to get all their coops have a common chart of accounts because everyone does things a little different.

Decision: change policy wording from audit to review

Policy Monitoring:

- EL6 - Budgeting/Financial Planning
 - Monitored by Chris and notes read by Tina as Chris was absent but supplied via email
 - Question of usefulness of breaking down budget by department to know which departments/ parts of store are more profitable, etc. - why? Curiosity/information only or does that help Darrion in any way?
 - Hard to define terms like “realistic” but agree with interpretation
 - Chris felt like was compliant
 - Budget increase of 4.1% actual for this year
- G8 - Neighboring Co-ops
 - Monitored and led by Kate
 - Should we reach out to more co-ops - other sectors, not just food
 - Valuable exercise to work with other boards?
 - Or what is the point of this policy to make it meaningful
 - As the board, what is the opportunity - learning
 - Peer collaboration for board presidents - share successes, challenges
 - Brought into question the meaning of this policy, is it just a good reminder, what is the “requirement” for the board, what does monitoring it really look like, data?
 - We had some interaction between our boards with Coop Food Stores during covid when we were feeling like we were in a covid silo
 - Should we discuss removing the policy if it doesn't really do anything? Kate says it's not useful nor harmful as a policy. Sam thinks it's useful.
 - Temperature check of thumbs up/down was evenly split.
 - We get stuck on this every year like a broken record.
 - Put on agenda for a few minutes next month for a quick vote.
- Budget Process for the Board
 - Kerry didn't work on it more, but probably similar to last
 - She will circulate the spreadsheet that Max made last year so people can comment on any changes
 - We will spend all of the money for CCMA conference because we're sending 3
 - Money for Michael/consulting
 - Training for CBLD
 - Some travel expenses
 - Review next month and approve
- Board Self-Evaluation - assign a working group
 - Did we like what we had last year or make revisions to the survey
 - Board expectations used as basis
 - Use it as a tool to get ideas for the next year
 - Keeping same one with modifications only for events - Tina and Kerry
- Nominating Committee
 - Keep inviting people or asking people if they can recommend someone
 - A way to be effective and pushing back against what's happening in country
 - Chance to connect with others who are passionate about local solutions
 - Switch doom scrolling time to 5 hours of time to coop!
- Education & Outreach Committee
 - Will give more of an update next month
 - Nice to connect with operations education and everything they are doing
 - Still doing the sign ups and sheet for board to do monthly-ish coffee dates

- Assignments for next month
 - G7 - Kerry
 - EL8 - Tina
- May Meeting topics:
 - Financial Training with Norm
 - Approve Board Budget
 - Update on proposed Bylaw changes
- Short Membership/Drive conversation - Zea sent some notes primarily for operations to review/consider to make a drive more effective, but might warrant a bigger conversation between board & operations about membership and question of tracking patronage/memberships and tax savings from Kate
- Packed agenda next month, with Norm giving a financial presentation. Please be on time.