

Agenda
Fiddleheads Food Coop Board of Directors
Hygeinic Gallery, Bank St., New London
6:30 - 8:30 pm, August 7, 2007

call to order - Dick
quorum (at least 5 people) - Ellen
agenda: changes and approval - Ellen
corrections/approval of 7/31 minutes - Ellen

Member comment time

Issues:
Site Committee and related issues
plan to look at floor plan
work on date of sign unveiling.

Money:
pull together questions to address to Rebecca and Stuart
update from Ed re NL loan application process

General Manager situation:
Resolution of unresolved matters concerning the legality of the events that occurred in the 4/17/07 meeting.

Open dialogue with Richard Krasner to find a solution to having a GM that would fundraise and oversee construction efforts - could he do it - how could he create income to generate a salary.

Making amends for the errors of the previous board.

New Business

closed session?
reopen, if necessary
adjourn.
beer.

Fiddleheads Food Coop Board of Directors
Hygienic Gallery, Bank St., New London
6:30 - about 10:00 pm, August 7, 2007

6:35 call to order - Dick

Directors present:
Ellen Anthony, Secretary
Jae Bouchard
Ed DeMuzzio, Vice-president arrived about 8:30?
Sheila Herbert
Allen Longendyke arrived about 7:00
Laura Natusch
Richard Spindler-Virgin, President
Jim Stidfole

Annie Chambers is away.

Co-op members present: Anne Scheibner, Pete de la Rosa, Ronna Stuller, Bob Bunting, Carol Booth, Ken Hanson, Art Costa, Judi LaCava Goldkamp, Paul McMaster, Kristin DeMuzzio, Richard Krasner.

agenda approved

MOTION by Jim, seconded by Jae: approval of 7/31 minutes: 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained.

We acknowledge missing minutes of 2 meetings in February 2007, not previously posted on the website but will be soon. - Ellen

Member comment time (90 minutes!):

* Judi LCG. read the co-op principles and expressed concern that we were planning on opening a store in New London, not a regional coop. She said the BoD can't ignore 4/17 because members aren't. She said we needed to locate and listen to the 4/17 tape, then make a statement to members about it. We need to rectify Richard's reputation. We need someone full-time to repair the damage done during the past few years.

* Ken H. spoke about some Site Committee issues and situations. He advised the Board to reinstate Richard, saying he was the first person to answer the site committee's questions, that the reinstatement of Richard would be good PR, and that Richard is an asset.

* Art C. said this might be the last chance for this co-op; he will help to make an operational plan actionable. He said that the business plan was updated in Nov. 2006, and although it could be revisited, it's still useful.

* Anne S. said that in the letter the BoD sent to members, she saw the plea for funds but saw no mention of Richard. Richard is good at outreach: before he was terminated, he met with the people from Saint Francis House who were interested in setting up a fund for low-income people to become co-op members. He'd scheduled a meeting with a tenants' association. She says there are about 1000 people living in walking distance of our site, and they are hurting because of California Fruit's absence. We need a one-page business statement to show members at Board meetings.

* Pete dlR. said that the coop should be a hub for the holistic health community. He expressed concern that Fiddleheads was not being true to cooperative principles and values. He said we must tap Richard's expertise and enthusiasm, that we need him for PR, and that we have to acknowledge and rectify the events of 4/17.

* Ronna S. said that even if we can't solve problems immediately (for example, problems with bylaws), we have to acknowledge them to members. She recommended reinstating Richard, saying fundraising could be done more efficiently by a professional than by already over-taxed volunteers. She said that if we acknowledge that he'd been treated unfairly by the previous board, then we are going to have to pay him something whether we reinstate him or not. If we reinstate him, we will be getting something for the money. Responses from Directors and further comments from members:

* Sheila: a co-op is about "we", not "you" and "us".

* Laura: the BoD's most important relationship is to members. She thanks members for taking the time to communicate to the BoD, even though they think the BoD has failed to communicate to them.

* Anne S: a bylaws committee should include a lawyer and a person from the Willimantic coop. She is very interested in bylaws, in general.

* Allen will speak to a labor relations lawyer he knows.

* Dick SV: motions must be on the agenda at least 24 hours before the meeting, therefore the Annual Meeting motions were not legal, but the issues are still very valid.

* Richard K: Recommends we contact Laddie Lushin, a lawyer with a co-op specialty.

8:05 pm.

Site Committee: Ken will have locks changed. Phone conference with PJ the site designer is scheduled. Charlie has fixed wall, but it has not had the acid test of a driving east rain. Jim will ask Bob Hauschild to paint a rendering of the interior once the plan is finalized. Sign unveiling will be on the weekend of Sept. 15-16 or 22-23.

Richard K. gave a presentation about himself and many facets of his relationship with Fiddleheads.

Money:

questions to address to Rebecca and Stuart - this will be done by email.

update from Ed re NL loan application process - Ned Hammond has the application and has not yet asked any questions.

MOTION Jim/Sheila: executive session 8-0-0
discussion personnel issues

MOTION Jim/Jae: end executive session 8-0-0
adjourn.

ACTIONS:

Art: actionable plan

Anne: might help with bylaws

Ronna: might help with bylaws

Annie: copies of financial stuff at each meeting

Allen: ask lawyer to next meeting.