

Board of Directors Meeting

June 8, 2004

APPROVED

Ashland Food Cooperative
237 North First Street
Ashland, OR 97520

Board members present: Joe Golton, Richard "Ric" Sayre, Serena St. Clair, Gwen Bowman, Herb Heiman, and Erik Wallbank. Board members absent: Glenn Hill. Also present were: Richard Katz, GM; Annie Hoy, Outreach/Owner Services Manager; and Anouschka Andresen, Staff Council Liaison. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by facilitator, Erik Wallbank.

1. Announcements: The meeting was held at 195 A Street, the site of the new Community Classroom and Board of Directors' office. Glenn Hill was absent.
2. Check In: Done.
3. Agenda Review: The agenda was reviewed, amended and accepted.
4. Staff Council: Anouschka reported that there are two new members of the staff council, Sava Parisi and Lindsey Freedman. The council is talking with the Ashland Springs Hotel about the holiday party. Planning has started for the all-staff meeting in late September.
5. Owner/Member Survey: Annie Hoy asked the board to review the latest draft of the owner/member survey and prioritize the questions in order to be able to eliminate redundancy. The board suggested several changes which Annie will consider in editing the survey with Peg Nolan, of Cooperative Development Services, who is designing the survey and compiling the results. Annie also asked the board to think about the meaning of such phrases used in the survey as, "Promoting awareness about food politics", "promoting awareness about co-ops and about local ownership," and "sustainable agriculture." We will be mailing out about 2,500 surveys and need to have a return of 500 in order to have meaningful results.
6. Annual Meeting: How can we plan a good owner/member turnout? The board brainstormed several ideas which might ensure a bigger attendance at the next annual meeting. A discussion ensued over why we have an annual meeting - besides being a legal requirement, is it an opportunity to provide financial information, an act of goodwill, an attempt to build community and build loyalty? There was discussion over whether the meeting should be a party with music, food, etc., or a business meeting, or both. Outreach and management will come back to the board with ideas about the structure of the annual meeting.
7. Staff Council Follow Up: Done.

8. Board Development: How can we assure a number of good candidates next year? Serena talked about the process the Board Development Committee followed this year to recruit candidates. The board discussed the handout from "Boards That Make a Difference." We want reflective and systematic people on the board who are committed to our mission; who can think in terms of systems; and who want to participate, share and challenge power. The board would like to encourage prospective board members to attend several meetings or serve on a board committee as an introduction to board membership. The board agreed that each board member should recruit at least one prospective member each year, beginning early in the year. Erik will get some ideas on recruitment to the Board Development Committee. The Committee will report back to the board in August on a process for recruiting.

9. Financial Training: Treasurer Joe Golton conducted a short training on questions which can be answered by reading financial statements about the financial soundness and viability of a business. The board referred to AFC financial statements to apply this information, and all agreed that the exercise was very useful. Joe will continue this training in August.

10. Board Self-Evaluation: When and How: This topic was tabled for the July meeting.

11. General Manager Report: Construction is finishing up on the new offices on A Street and the remodeling of the old Community Classroom in the co-op building. Richard reported that AFC has hired a new deli manager, Michael Cooke. Michael has just moved here from Southern California, where he ran several large and successful delis. Richard is working on an article to put in the newsletter soliciting responses from the owner/members about a new group health insurance plan.

12. Minutes Review: The May meeting minutes were reviewed and approved.

13. Financial Report (Questions): Serena asked that a bar graph of new members signed up each month be added to the financial report, as well as the percentage of sales to owner/members.

14. Finance Committee: There was no meeting of the committee in May.

15. Outreach Committee: There was no meeting of the committee in May.

16. Meeting Evaluation: Done

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m. The next regularly scheduled Board meeting will be July 6, 2004 at 6:30 p.m. with Erik Wallbank facilitating.

The GM report and Committee reports are available on request.

Minutes are not posted until approved by the Board at the next month's meeting.

BOARD ACTIONS: There were no board actions at this meeting.

Minutes were amended and approved by the Board on July 13, 2004.