

**Ashland Food Cooperative  
237 North First Street  
Ashland, OR 97520**

**Board of Directors Meeting  
May 13, 2009  
APPROVED**

**Board Members present:** Gwyneth Bowman, Guy Nutter, Ric Sayre, Elizabeth Robinson, Danielle Amarotico, Serena St Clair **Absent:** Peter Hoyt **Others present:** Richard Katz; General Manager; Leslie van Gelder, Board Assistant; Matthew Hartman, Facilitator.

1. **Announcements:** Gwyneth announced that a vote of the board was taken online to decide on retaining Matthew Hartman as facilitator. The board unanimously agreed to retain Matthew's facilitation services.
2. **Owner Forum:** Joseph Tokarz, AFC staff member, and Steven Borich, a candidate for the board, attended the meeting, but did not wish to speak.
3. **Agenda Review:** Done
4. **Consent Agenda:** The Board approved the following items:
  - Accepted the April Board Minutes and Executive Session Minutes
  - Reviewed Committee Reports: Outreach, Social Responsibility, Finance Committees
  - Revisions to Social Responsibility Charter
5. **GM Report:** Richard answered questions from the Board regarding his report which was previously sent out by email. The Co-op is offering \$100 gift cards for \$95. Richard expects that energy savings on the new freezers will be significant, and the investment in energy efficient fan motors combined with rebates will have a less than two year payback.
6. **Community Grant Awards:** Guy reported that \$24,580 was given out this year for 22 projects. This year there was less money to be granted and fewer grants were given. Serena suggested that next year some of the Natural Step goals be included in the Community Grant objectives. Guy said the committee will be meeting again to look at ways that might be done.
7. **Owner Survey:** Richard had emailed out the entire survey to the board previously and answered questions at the meeting. The board members indicated their pleasure with the generally positive results of the survey.
8. **Volunteers for Dinner with the Directors and June 13<sup>th</sup> Table:** Elizabeth, Gwyneth, Danielle, and Serena will attend the dinner on Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup>.

Elizabeth and Danielle will set up tables and serve food. Elizabeth passed out a sign-up sheet for board members to sit at a table at the Co-op to promote ownership in the Co-op, educate owners about the Twin Pines Fund, and to encourage owners to vote in the election.

- 9. Review of 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2009 Financial Statements:** Richard reviewed the figures from the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter financial statements with the board. Sales were less than 1% higher than last year's at this time. The gross margin was 1% higher than budgeted. Bulk sales and basic pricing sales are up. Richard said that sales for April and May are very good so far.
- 10. Lending Guidelines:** An ad hoc committee, consisting of Gwyneth, Ric, and Danielle, met during the past month to draft a guideline for assisting other cooperatives who request loans and other types of support. The guidelines were based on the seventh Co-op principal: "Cooperatives will serve their members by working together through local, national, regional and international structures." After a discussion, the committee agreed to meet with Richard to incorporate some of the ideas generated at the meeting.
- 11. Board Self-Evaluation:** This past year, the board followed a new format for the board self-evaluation. At the August meeting the board discussed what worked and what didn't work in the previous year. At the December meeting the discussion was continued and formalized as goals for 2009. The board agreed that it would work on the goals that haven't been addressed, yet. The Board Development Committee will meet to review the goals for this year and recommend a process for the coming year to begin at the November meeting.

**12. Meeting Review:** Done

The meeting was adjourned at 8:01 pm.

**Board Actions:**

- Agreed to retain Matthew Hartman's services as Board Facilitator
- Accepted the April Board Minutes and Executive Session Minutes
- Reviewed Committee Reports: Outreach, Social Responsibility, Finance Committees
- Revisions to Social Responsibility Charter

The next regularly scheduled Board meeting will be on Wednesday, June 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. with Matthew Hartman facilitating.

*The GM report and Committee reports are available on request.*

Minutes were approved by the AFC Board of Directors at the June 10, 2009 meeting.