

Minutes of the Springfield Food Co-op Annual Meeting
May 27, 2010 7:00 PM Hartness Airport

Present: Current Board of Directors Judi Becker, Susan Hall, Raven Mueller, Anne Nordstrom, Christine Speidel; General Manager Marie Alfieri; 38 member families of the Springfield Co-op.

Welcome: Anne Nordstrom, President of the Board of Directors, welcomed members to the Annual Meeting. She thanked the Board members for their service and recognized the contributions of Susan Dunning and Pam Goldman, retiring Board members. Both Pam and Susan have provided excellent guidance and leadership for the Co-op for several years.

President's Update: Anne noted that Fiscal Year 2009-2010 has been another exciting year of growth and change at the Springfield Food Co-op. Sales for the Fiscal Year ending March 31, 2010 totaled \$939,242 which is an 18.5% increase over the previous year's sales. The Co-op enrolled 144 new members this past fiscal year bringing the current total to over 917 member-owner households. The Co-op expanded its community outreach programs with several presentations on health and nutrition. For the second year, the Co-op presented a \$500 college scholarship to a graduating senior at Springfield High School pursuing a degree in environmental or agricultural studies. Co-op business hours were expanded to meet growing demand and an electronic Point-of-Sale checkout system was installed.

The Co-op goals for 2010 include 1) continued growth in sales and membership; 2) strategic planning for the Board; 3) a committed and involved membership to be fully engaged and join committees; 4) continued support for local farmers and artisans; and 5) continued profitability.

2009 Annual Meeting Minutes: Susan Dunning noted a correction to the 2009 Annual Meeting Minutes: the list of Co-op Board members should include Frank Manafort, a "special" board member who serves primarily as the Co-op's representative to the condo association. A motion was made by Susan Dunning (second, Mary Helen Hawthorne) to approve the Minutes of last year's Annual Meeting with noted correction. Vote unanimous.

General Manager's Report: In March 2010, Marie Alfieri was hired as our new General Manager replacing Cindy Phillips, who stepped down as General Manager and assumed the new position of Financial Manager.

Marie thanked everyone for this exciting opportunity. She encouraged folks to submit ideas, suggestions and feedback. Marie hopes to build on the success of the Co-op to lift up the community. Marie expressed appreciation to the Board members and to her dedicated staff.

By Law Change: Raven Mueller, Vice President, asked the membership to review the following by law change proposed by the Board: "Meetings by telephone and electronic communications – the Board may conduct its business via telephone conference or electronic communications. Participation by such means shall constitute presence in person at a meeting of the Board."

Susan Dunning made a motion (second, Judy Glos) to approve the bylaw change but to charge the Board to revisit this matter before the next Co-op Annual Meeting. Vote unanimous.

Nomination and Election of New Board Members: Cindy Johnson, Raven Mueller, and Christine Speidel were nominated for the three open positions for a three-year term on the Board. Hallie Whitcomb motioned (second, Warren Cross) to accept the new slate of three-year Board members as presented. Vote unanimous.

Judi Becker and Kurth Bemis were nominated for two of the three open positions for a one-year term on the Board. Ann Whitcomb motioned (second, Neomi Lauritsen) to accept the new slate of one-year Board members as presented. Vote unanimous.

The current board members and remaining terms of office are as follows: Susan Hall, 2 years; Frank Manafort, 2 years; Anne Nordstrom, 2 years.

Co-op Expansion

Anne Nordstrom indicated that the Co-op is giving serious consideration to the possibility of expansion by purchasing additional space at the existing site. We are currently researching the possibility, including the feasibility of resources. The next steps are to continue due diligence; seek advice from NCGA; and request the input of our Co-op membership.

Judy Glos, former Treasurer of the Co-op, has carefully analyzed the Co-op financial situation. She advised that this is an extraordinary opportunity despite the uncertainty of the future economic climate. We need to proceed carefully to make sure this is affordable. We don't want to overextend.

The majority of members attending the meeting commented that there would be risk, but given the Co-op's growth to date, an expanded space would offer great potential for the Co-op.

Judy Glos motioned (second, Rebecca Durant) that the Board proceed with due diligence to analyze all aspects of growth for the Springfield Food Co-op and to report their findings to the membership. If the results are positive, the Board should ask the Co-op membership for a vote to proceed. Vote unanimous.

Open Session:

Discussion included a request for a report of the Co-op's financial status and the status of health insurance for Co-op employees.

Cindy Phillips offered kudos to Susan Dunning, retiring Board member, for her outstanding leadership and vision for the Co-op.

Judy Glos expressed her appreciation to Cindy Phillips for making the Springfield Food Co-op what it is today.

Anne Nordstrom acknowledged the excellent work of the Co-op staff.

Marie Alfieri thanked the Co-op volunteers who are the core of our Working Member program and who faithfully come to the Co-op on a weekly basis.

Raven Mueller thanked the membership for a great turnout at the Annual Meeting.

Adjournment: Judy Glos made a motion (second, Mary Helen Hawthorne) to adjourn the meeting. Vote unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Judi Becker

