



April 30, 2015 Board Meeting, 7:00 pm, 486-12th Street, Astoria

Present: Allie Evans, Hilary Herman, Beth La Fleur, Matt Stanley, Angela Sidlo, Libby Lawrence, Norma Hernandez, Brad Hill

Public present: None

Call to order: Allie called the meeting to order. Matt began with two important items: (1) Matt and Holly are expecting a baby ! and (2) our current meeting space at 486-12th Street will no longer be available because the building owner has leased out the entire building to a new tenant. Matt will be looking at meeting space options.

Libby stated that she does not want the Co-op to make any big issues or stances regarding GMO's (genetically modified organisms). She would like the Co-op to sell products that our customers want and not be obviously anti-GMO. She would like to take a step back from taking stances on labelling advocacy stances. Matt stated that the National Cooperative Grocers (NCG), of which we are a member, is going to ask member co-ops to defeat a federal bill that will bar communicate from preserving local control on GMO issues. Consumer Reports has recently taking a public stance with the public's right to know regarding labelling and food contents. Matt recognized the need to meet the needs of mid-level consumers. Perhaps we will have product guidelines rather than policies. Brad mentioned he is pro-labelling and to leave it to the consumer to make the choice. Allie agreed that the consumer has the right to know. We might need to revisit this specifically at a later date.

Public Comment: None.

Logistics: The annual meeting is planned for May 3, 6 pm at the Red Building by the Port of Astoria. Libby and Hilary are not able to attend the annual meeting. Zetty is doing promotional materials. May 13, Libby and Angela are doing a Board tasting at the store. May 14th is our next lecture, June 2 is Brad and Hilary tasting, June 3 is Farm to Fork (need volunteers) and May 31 is Run on the River (Co-op is doing sponsorship) and June 18 will tentatively be the next Board meeting, location to be determined.

Norma gave information on the non-run put on by the Astoria Parks Foundation, zero K, June 14. This is a fundraiser for Astoria Parks and Recreation scholarships.

Minutes: Allie asked for a motion to approve April 2, 2015 Board minutes. Libby made the **motion** to approve and Norma seconded, and all approved.

Development Cooperative Review: Matt and the Board reviewed the drafted consulting agreement contract with the NCG's Development Cooperative (DC). The DC would help us determine expansion feasibility, financial ability to take on an expansion, and project management issues (pro formas). We would in effect have them as a "partner" in our expansion. It would be in the DC's interest that if we take this step, we will succeed. Matt's contact at the DC wouldn't be confident in our plans if he didn't see we are ready to expand. Part of our next step is naming a site so the the DC can start with their feasibility assessments. Matt will find out more information how to best proceed with one site and how far we can change that based on site availability as we go forward in the project and into the future. For comparison, we now have 2,100 square feet of retail space. We are aiming for 7,000-10,000 square feet of retail space.

Angela motion to sign the Consulting Agreement. Brad seconded, all approved. Matt will schedule their visit in June/July. Brad added that \$15,000 could save us a big head ache and lots more money in potential “downside”.

The Board commenced with an exercise using Essential and Desired site characteristics and how many dots each earned. Each member had 5 dots to put up on the list. The list we came up with follows, with the corresponding number of dots:

Essential: In City of Astoria (approx. 1/2-1 mile from downtown-9, Enough space for 7,000 square feet of retail-6, on Marine Drive-6, easy/safe in and out-4, adequate parking (approximately 6 spaces per 1,000 square feet)-2, semi-access for delivery trucks-2.

Desired: Riverview-6, pedestrian ease-5, room to add on/for future use-4, close to hospital-1, at a traffic light-0, customizable-0.

Matt will bring this information back to the DC. Beth suggested checking with Oregon Department of Transportation about what, if anything, they might require as part of a new use/development which uses Marine Drive as an access point.

Manager’s Report: Matt reviewed the financials. Note that for the Quartiles, the “top percent” heading should be labelled as us. April is trending at 16% growth over last April. That is good! We’ve transferred \$10,000 into savings.

The installation of cameras has had the additional benefit of facilitating extra help up front prior to the bell ding and increased customer service.

The NCG is reworking their contracts with members. They will be offering new benefits for us members, including a new west coast office which will be based in Portland, and focusing on fresh foods.

Meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth La Fleur, Board Secretary