Minutes of the
Marquette Food Co-op Annual Meeting
Ramada Inn
March 15, 2019

Start time: Meeting was called to order by president Phil Britton at 5:50 p.m.

Roll call: M. Augustyn, P. Britton, H. Bush, K. Cantway, A. Cherrette, R. Kochis, M. Linck, C. Noordyk.

Absent: None.

Staff: GM Matt Gougeon, MFC Staff

Public: MFC Owners

I. Welcome (Phil Britton, Board President): Board President Phil Britton introduced himself and recognized MFC staff, GM Matt Gougeon, and the Board Recorder. He announced the winners of the 2019 election: incumbent Board members Michelle Augustyn, Angie Cherrette, and Rick Kochis; Kelly Cantway, who was filling a vacancy on the Board; and Board newcomer Zosia Eppensteiner. P. Britton commented on the MFC's goal of cooperation not corporation and noted the growth of the store. He also recognized new co-op members and acknowledged the loss of past Board members Brian Brady and Emily Wright. P. Britton encouraged owners to review the MFC's Annual Report and commented on the good work being done by the Marquette Food Co-op.

II. Year In Review (Matt Gougeon, General Manager): GM reported that last year was a good year despite increasing competition. He reported that the MFC prepared for two years to increase productivity and sales. The store saw double-digit growth until the opening of Meijer, and sales growth has remained relatively flat since then. The MFC has also been working toward increasing benefits for employees and implemented a livable wage. GM reported that it was a strong year for new member equity. He reported that the store saw a net profit at the end of the year and has paid down a third of its debt since the store opened in its new location. GM thanked staff and management.

III. Public Comment and Question Period:
The GM opened the meeting to questions from the public:
   a) Member of the public inquired about bulk sales. GM reported that two years ago bulk sales were down following national trends. The MFC worked to revamp the bulk department and managed to stop the decline in sales. Bulk sales are now relatively flat.
   b) Member of the public inquired about facilities improvements. GM commented that this has been a hard winter with extra expenses for snow removal and refrigeration problems. GM noted that he hopes to pursue having solar on the roof at the MFC.
   c) Member of the public inquired about changing the parking lot to angled parking. GM explained that there is not enough parking. He noted that when the parking lot was laid out, the MFC explored having angled parking, however perpendicular parking allowed for additional spaces in the lot.
   d) Member of the public asked about the MFC's biggest goal for 2019. GM said it would be for winter to end. He noted that this winter has been hard on sales for local retailers.
   e) Member of the public asked if the MFC is considering curbside pickup or ordering ahead possibilities. GM responded that ecommerce will be coming very soon.

f) GM asked attendees if they like the Owner Rewards Program and was met with applause.
g) Member of the public thanked the Board and MFC for its involvement with the Food Hub and Food Policy Committee, noting it has been a great service to the local community with drafting new ordinances.
h) The GM thanked the Board for volunteering their time to serve the Co-op and encouraged owners to run for the Board in the future.
i) Member of the public asked if the MFC will consider having a juice or smoothie bar. GM responded that he would like to someday do so, but it would have to make financial sense.
j) Member of the public inquired about sushi. GM reported that sushi sold out when it was available, but that it was not sustainable with the amount of labor it involved. The store is working on how to bring back sushi.

GM thanked everyone for attending. Sarah Monte thanked the staff at the Ramada and everyone that donated raffle prizes, and invited attendees to enjoy dinner and music.

IV. Closings: Meeting adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

Next Board Meeting: March 19, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.

Emily Weddle
Board Recorder