

**Minutes of the
Marquette Food Co-op Board of Directors
March 19, 2024 Meeting**

Start time: Meeting was called to order by president M. Augustyn at 6:05 p.m.

Roll call: M. Augustyn, N. Frischkorn, R. Kochis, M. Kramer-Rabine, T. Rulseh, E. Sally.
Absent: M. Dewar(*excused*), M. Linck (*excused*).
Staff: GM Matt Gougeon, Sarah Monte.
Public: Harley Erickson, Hether Jonna Frayer, Josh Wales.

II. Preliminaries:

- (a) Approval of Agenda & Additions: Agenda was reviewed. Hether Jonna Frayer from People's Food Co-op introduced herself.

III. Consent Agenda:

- (a) Electronic Communications
- (b) Approval of February and Annual Meeting Minutes
- (c) Outreach Report (S. Monte)
- (d) UP Food Exchange Report (S. Monte)

Motion: To approve agenda and consent agenda with no changes (motion by T. Rulseh second N. Frischkorn).

Action: Motion passed unanimously.

IV. Public Comment Period: T. Rulseh invited Hether to talk about her business Fresh Food Fun. Hether discussed her work helping create positive relationships with fresh vegetables.

V. Board Education: Recycling and Waste Management (Josh Wales): Josh Wales from Marquette County Solid Waste Landfill and Recycle 906 introduced himself. Wales discussed Marquette's single-stream recycling facility. Wales reported on the wide range of materials that can be recycled, including plastics 1 through 7 (he noted that #6 styrofoam cannot be recycled through our local facility and tetrapak cannot currently be recycled). Wales reported about partnership with Michigan Tech to process glass for reuse. Battery recycling was also discussed. Wales invited the board to tour the recycling facility. Wales discussed challenges that are unique to Marquette due to location since all the materials need to be trucked to other facilities for manufacturing. Wales shared about educational outreach that Waste Management does and answered questions from the board about recyclable materials. Wales invited the board to reach out if they would like to schedule a tour of the Waste Management and Recycling facility.

VI. GM Monitoring:

- (a) Store Report (M. Gougeon): GM reported about sales and noted that things have been slower than usual. A Prepared Foods Specialist from NCG is visiting the MFC this week to give recommendations about prepared foods, meat, and bakery departments. GM reported that the MFC is contracting with Phil Britton of Fresh

Systems, LLC to develop systems for staff training across departments. GM reported that the MFC is working with Plant Theory Landscaping to improve the landscaping in green spaces at the MFC. Dust for You has also been contracted for store cleaning and maintenance. GM reported that the line of credit with Range Bank has been renewed. GM also reported that he will be attending the spring NCG conference in April.

- (b) L4 – Membership (M. Gougeon): Board received the report prior to the meeting and came prepared to act.

Operational definition/interpretation reasonable: Yes.

Adequate data to determine compliance/accomplishment: Yes.

Does the data demonstrate compliance/accomplishment: Yes.

Report was accepted as in compliance.

VII. Board Monitoring & Discussion:

(a) Committee Reports and Discussion:

- i. GM Evaluation (M. Augustyn, M. Kramer-Rabine, M. Linck): Did not meet.
- ii. Finance (M. Dewar, R. Kochis, T. Rulseh, E. Sally): Met to discuss February financials. GM reported that the MFC has been approached by a builder about potentially leasing space in Negaunee for a smaller co-op grocery retail space. The board discussed that adding a store in Negaunee would help fill a need in an under-served community.
- iii. Owner Linkage and Engagement (M. Augustyn, M. Dewar, N. Frischkorn):
 1. Plan Earth Day Cleanup: Cleanup will take place Saturday, April 20, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Committee will meet prior to the event and will coordinate with S. Monte for details.
- iv. Elections & Orientation (R. Kochis, M. Kramer-Rabine, M. Linck, E. Sally): Elections are completed. There are three new board members. First orientation will take place April 16, prior to the monthly board meeting. Additional meetings will be scheduled in May. Discussion was held about planning for a store tour for incoming and existing board members.
- v. Governance (M. Augustyn, N. Frischkorn, R. Kochis): Policies are being reviewed. Committee will meet to continue review process.
- vi. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (N. Frischkorn, M. Linck, T. Rulseh, E. Sally): Committee reviewed G policies. Newsletter report is due April 12.

- (b) Board Elections: Elections concluded. Voter turnout was discussed.

- (c) Annual Meeting of Owners: The Annual Meeting was held on March 8. The board shared positive feedback about the event. The event was very well attended this year. The board discussed the menu and word cloud activity. The board acknowledged Sarah Monte's work coordinating the event. The board noted that there were more people in attendance at the Annual Meeting than voted in the board election and discussed the need to consider various ways to improve voter turnout next year. GM commented that this Annual Meeting was the best one ever and that many long-time members were in attendance.
- (d) Begin CCMA Planning: CCMA will be held in Portland, Maine, May 30 – June 1. E. Sally is interested in attending. GM and Bri Larson will likely attend as well. GM noted that Up and Coming, a co-op conference in Kalamazoo will be held this fall from September 12-14.

VIII. Public Comment Period: Hether Jonna Frayer thanked the board for meeting with her while she has been in Marquette. The board asked Harley Erickson if he had any feedback about low voter turnout. Discussion was held about whether owners feel empowered and whether voting feels like an effective tool for enacting change. The board asked Hether about how board meetings are conducted at her co-op. Discussion was held.

IX. Closings: Board calendar work will begin in April. Board calendar will be finalized in May.

(a) April Assignments:

- i. Update Directory
- ii. Start Work on Board Calendar
- iii. L8 – Communication and Counsel to the Board (M. Gougeon)
- iv. Store Report (M. Gougeon)
- v. Committee Reports and Discussion
 - 1. Earth Day Cleanup (Engagement/Owner Linkage)
 - 2. DEI Committee Report for Newsletter (DEI)
(Due 4/12 for May Publication)
 - 3. Orientation Procedure Begins (Elections & Orientation)
- vi. Consent Agenda:
 - 1. Electronic Communications
 - 2. Approval of March Minutes
 - 3. Outreach Report (S. Monte)
 - 4. UP Food Exchange Report (S. Monte)
 - 5. Accept G Policies

X. *Motion to adjourn at 8:00 p.m. (motion by T. Rulseh, second N. Frischkorn).*
Action: Motion passed unanimously.

Next Board Meeting: April 16, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

Emily Weddle
Board Recorder