

**Minutes of the
Marquette Food Co-op Board of Directors
February 17, 2026 Meeting**

Start time: Meeting was called to order by president T. Rulseh at 6:00 p.m.

Roll call: A. Berger, A. Adan, M. Danz (Zoom), M. Dewar, G. Hoffmann, O. Kingery (Zoom), A. McGrath (Zoom), T. Rulseh, S. Weaver.

Absent: GM Matt Gougeon (excused)

Staff: Kelly Cantway, Kat Eaton (Zoom), Bri Larson, Sarah Monte

Public: Mary Pat Linck

I. Roll Call: It was noted that GM is absent due to illness.

II. Agenda Overview and Approval: Board Education: Accountant Presents Year End Financials to the Board was taken off the agenda. Discussion was held over email. Finance Committee will review financials.

III. Consent Agenda:

- (a) Electronic Communications
- (b) Approval of January Meeting Minutes
- (c) Approval of January Special Meeting Minutes
- (d) Outreach Report (S. Monte)
- (e) UP Food Exchange Report (S. Monte)

Motion: *To approve the Agenda and Consent Agenda (motion by A. Berger, second S. Weaver)*

Action: *Motion passed unanimously.*

IV. Public Comment Period: The board welcomed former board member Mary Pat Linck. T. Rulseh commented that he received positive feedback about MFC cooking classes including a class focused on indigenous foods. Discussion was held about Minnesota-made tofu. E. Weddle asked about rumored plans for an Aldi in Marquette Township. It was discussed that the rumor is unsubstantiated.

V. GM Monitoring:

- (a) Store Report (M. Gougeon): Board reviewed the report. Training for forklift "Big Joe" took place along with repairs. New maintenance person has been hired.
- (b) L5 – Financial Condition 4th Quarter (M. Gougeon): Board discussed L5.2. and restricted funds. K. Eaton provided clarification. L5.7 was also discussed. T. Rulseh proposed changing the wording to acknowledge the need for the final numbers from the tax return. Governance Committee will review the wording and make a recommendation at the March meeting.

Operational definition/interpretation reasonable: Yes.

Adequate data to determine compliance/accomplishment: Yes.

Does the data demonstrate compliance/accomplishment: Yes, except for L5.7.

Report was accepted as conditionally as in compliance, but will be reviewed by the Governance Committee for future use.

- (c) Annual Ends Report (M. Gougeon): The board discussed the report. Brief oral review of the Ends Report will be added to the March agenda if desired by the GM. The 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.

VI. Board Monitoring & Discussion:

(a) Committee Reports and Discussion:

- i. GM Evaluation (A. Adan, M. Danz, M. Dewar, T. Rulseh): Committee noted that following the evaluation process last year, GM had suggestions regarding potential changes to the process. Committee will follow up with GM about this discussion prior to the March meeting.
- ii. Finance (A. Berger, M. Danz, M. Dewar, G. Hoffmann): Committee will be rescheduling its monthly meeting.
- iii. Community Engagement (O. Kingery, A. McGrath, S. Weaver):
 1. *Fresh Feed* Article Due 3/13 for April Publication: O. Kingery will submit an article for the *Fresh Feed* by the deadline.
 2. Certify Membership: O. Kingery will meet with E. Zimmermann to certify the membership prior to the Annual Meeting.
 3. Plan Earth Day Cleanup: Committee is partnering with NMU for Annual Earth Day Cleanup, which will be held Saturday, April 25, 11am – 2pm. O. Kingery invited T. Rulseh to participate in the NMU tabling event to represent the MFC board.
- iv. Elections & Orientation (A. Berger, O. Kingery, A. McGrath): Election is underway. A. McGrath provided an update about election and invited candidates to attend the meeting and review meeting documents.
- v. Governance (A. Adan, A. McGrath, T. Rulseh):
 1. Accept Governance Policies: Committee met last week. Acceptance of policies will be postponed to the March meeting.

- vi. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (O. Kingery, S. Weaver, G. Hoffmann): Committee will be reviewing plans for parking lot expansion through a DEI lens.

- (b) Annual Meeting Details: T. Rulseh, G. Hoffmann, O. Kingery, S. Weaver, and tentatively A. McGrath volunteered to help S. Monte staff the meeting starting at 4:30pm. Board members expressed enthusiasm about having Moon Rae Cakes cater the event.

VII. Public Comment Period: Board expressed enthusiasm for the MFC's plan to sponsor an exhibit at the U.P. Children's Museum. Mary Pat Linck commented about the Annual Meeting. S. Monte shared about plans for the events. The board thanked S. Monte for all the work that goes into planning the event. S. Monte reported about potentially screening a ten-minute video during the business meeting portion of the event. S. Monte noted that the video was screened at *Fresh Coast Film Festival*. Meeting logistics and timeline were discussed.

VIII. Closings:

(a) March Assignments:

- i. Store Report (M. Gougeon)
- ii. L4 – Membership (M. Gougeon)
- iii. Brief Review of Annual Ends Report (M. Gougeon)
- iv. Begin CCMA Planning
- v. Plan Board Social
- vi. Committee Reports and Discussion
 - 1. Accept Governance Policies (Governance Committee)
 - 2. Review Wording of L5.7 (Governance Committee)
 - 3. Quarterly Review of Delegation Policies (Governance Committee)
 - 4. Board Elections
 - 5. Annual Membership Meeting
- vii. Consent Agenda:
 - 1. Electronic Communications
 - 2. Approval of February Minutes
 - 3. Outreach Report (S. Monte)
 - 4. UP Food Exchange Report (S. Monte)

IX. Motion to adjourn 6:53 p.m. (motion by A. McGrath, second O. Kingery).
Action: Motion passed unanimously.

Next Board Meeting: March 17, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

Emily Weddle
Board Secretary