

**HARVEST BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
PUBLIC MINUTES  
9 SEPTEMBER 2013**

Attending: Matt Auerbach (via telephone), R. Wayne Clark, Stephanie Golas, Arash Kani, Dave Madigan, Chloe Rivka (MSCC Chair), Diane Simpson (Board Administrator), Stephanie Souza, Mike St. Clair (General Manager, via telephone).

Meeting minutes taken by Diane Simpson  
Absent, excused: Eva Amanda Agudelo, Leah Madsen  
Guests: Andrea Steel and Claude Hemrick  
The meeting commenced at 6:40 p.m. with introductions.

**Vote Key**

Votes are recorded in this order: For, Against, Abstaining.

**Agenda Review**

- Web site update removed
- Matt as facilitator removed
- Round of introductions followed

Guests: Andrea Steel and Claude Hemrick. Andrea is from Portland. President of Sisters of the Road Cafe in Portland; employee at Vertex; and potential Board candidate. Claude Hemrick works in online sales; is working on a startup; and is also a potential Board candidate.

**Member Comment**

Harvest Arboretum had its greatest Sunday by a margin of 25%! Harvest received another positive reception at the Farmers market. Two farmers asked about getting their products in the store. Harvest will have at least one more tabling session at the farmers market this fall.

**Minutes Approval**

No comments on August public minutes,

**Motion: Accept August public minutes.** The motion was moved and seconded. Approved 6-0-0.

**Tabling**

Directors were asked to comment on anything new or eventful. A director pointed out that there were no product signs or aisle signs. Mike responded that this is called “wayfinding.” It was in initial budget but got cut out due to cost overruns. Management is trying to figure out a way to do it well on a limited budget. They should have something pretty soon.

The director also noted that the wall over the deli would be perfect for some kind of art or mural. Mike said that they had formed a committee in the store early on to discuss graphics over the deli and they couldn’t come to an agreement. Beginning this week he said they will install some very attention-grabbing graphics on the Washington Street side of the store.

A director noted that Wheatesville co-op shows the number of local items and the percentage of organic items on a blackboard in that area.

This month's question for tabling (at Forest Hills): What would you still like to see in the Arboretum store?

Scheduling this month:

- Stephanie at South Street
- Matt at Forest Hills
- Dave and Wayne at Cambridge

A director noted that the situation was good at Arboretum last month—lots of traffic and no vendors competing for attention with Board members. A guest asked what was the purpose of tabling: talking to members or getting new members. A director responded that it's two-fold: to talk to the members and also to get new members. The directors want to make people aware that this is a co-op and different from a regular grocery store.

### **MSCC Update**

Chloe gave an update on what MSCC (Membership and Social Concerns) is working on:

- Restarting monthly meetings on last Thursday of every month
- Sept 26 event location is TBD
- Chloe recruiting people for all the events
- Iris Weaver (shamanic herbalist) contacted her
- November potentially the date for next event
- Looking at 3-4 events per year
- Chloe is looking at different spaces—email her with suggestions.

The Board discussed the possibility of doing vendor tours and also possible university connections. Harvest has connections at Northeastern, Tufts, Harvard and MIT.

**ACTION ITEM** (All) If anyone can think of connections or potential speakers for MSCC, let Chloe know.

**ACTION ITEM** Stephanie to send the link to the co-op movie "Food for Change," to everyone.

### **Co-op Faire**

Wayne gave the update on the Faire. There is an agreement with Operations to have it at the Arboretum Store on October 5 from 10-2. JP NET has workshops the first through the 5<sup>th</sup>; it would be great if they could finish their event at the Co-op Faire. Wayne is hoping for 40 co-ops.

### **Global Ends**

Stephanee gave the Global ends Update. She has come up with the following categories:

- Community
- Co-ops
- Products
- Co-op Business

- Environment
- Employees

There was a brief discussion as to whether the Global Ends should have a category on “membership” and Stephanie noted that it was under “community.” The discussion included having “educated diverse involved” members because diversity builds a stronger community. Ends are supposed to be simple—interpreting is the complex part. They are interpreted by the General Manager. Global Ends will be on the agenda next month when more people are here.

**ACTION ITEM** Stephanie to run the Global Ends by Rose Marie on the conference call.

Stephanie asked Mike if he had any thoughts on Ends and he replied that he would like to spend a little time on that and have a meeting with his staff. The Board will have his feedback by the October meeting.

**ACTION ITEM** Mike to send feedback on the Ends to Stephanie for the October meeting.

**ACTION ITEM** (All) Everybody come with thoughts and ideas on Ends.

### **Election Update**

Matt gave the Election Update: Andrea, Claude, and Lila Gibbons are the 3 new candidates. Leah and Dave will run also. All are members. The timeline is all mapped out. Now Matt has to invite everyone to the annual meeting. Candidates have to consider it a mandatory meeting.

**ACTION ITEM** Stephanie to have a proposal for October on new director training.

### **Annual Meeting**

- Stephanie would like ideas to make it interactive.
- Facilitator from last year will be requested.
- The “table talks” worked very well.
- A Board member facilitates at each table.
- Need to have a presentation about MSCC (5-10 minutes).
- Also need a signup sheet.
- Mike fairly certain Arboretum store can cater the meeting.
- Someone from the kitchen can come up and talk about the food.
- Ideas needed on how to collect candidate questions.
- Index card idea for candidate questions: Put questions in a hat.
- No beer and wine at the —too many permitting and licensing hoops to jump through.
- They will be able to do a raffle—Chris reaches out to vendors.

Interactivity suggestions:

- “Speed dating event” 3 pre-set questions that everyone gets
- 2 sets of flashcards; one with question one with answer—find the match
- Co-op bingo game

Final decision needed at the October meeting

**ACTION ITEM** Stephanie to reach out to Rebecca and try to get last year’s facilitator again.

**ACTION ITEM** Stephanie to find out what the facilitator charges.

**ACTION ITEM** Mike to ask Chris to reach out for vendor donations.

**ACTION ITEM** Board members email Stephanie if they think of new interactive ideas.

### Website update

The web company is making continual progress and doing quite well.

### Board Monitoring

Unity of Control and GM Accountability were this month's topics. There were no comments; therefore the Board is in compliance.

**Motion: Accept the monitoring reports on Unity of Control and GM Accountability.**

The motion was moved and seconded. Approved 6-0-0.

A director asked for feedback and impressions of the meeting from the guests. They said we were "well-organized" and "stayed on track."

**Motion: Close the public session.** The motion was moved and seconded. Approved 6-0-0.

**ACTION ITEM** Stephanie: Email Rose Marie the Ends.

The public meeting closed at 8:08 p.m.

### Action Item Summary

**ACTION ITEM** (All) If anyone can think of connections or potential speakers for MSCC, let Chloe know.

**ACTION ITEM** Stephanie to send the link to the co-op movie "Food for Change," to everyone.

**ACTION ITEM** Stephanie to run the Global Ends by Rose Marie on the conference call.

**ACTION ITEM** Mike to send feedback on the Ends to Stephanie for the October meeting.

**ACTION ITEM** (All) Everybody come with thoughts and ideas on Ends.

**ACTION ITEM** Stephanie to have a proposal for October on new director training.

**ACTION ITEM** Stephanie to reach out to Rebecca and try to get last year's facilitator again.

**ACTION ITEM** Stephanie to find out what the facilitator charges.

**ACTION ITEM** Mike to ask Chris to reach out for vendor donations.

**ACTION ITEM** Board members email Stephanie if they think of new interactive ideas.

**ACTION ITEM** Stephanie: Email Rose Marie the Ends.