

BOARD MEETING MINUTES
FEATHER RIVER FOODS CO-OP BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING: July 30, 2024
APPROVED AT SEPTEMBER 24 MEETING

Time: 5:01 pm – meeting called to order by Melissa

Location: White house and Google Meet

Board members present: Wayne Cartwright, Melissa Lopez, Ian Schrammel, Tim Jones, Clare Churchill, Kate Rahmeyer

Board members absent: Mimi Hall

Board Facilitator: Kate Rahmeyer

Board Educator: Wayne Cartwright

Minutes taken by: Ross MacNeil

Staff present: Marcie Wilde, Ross MacNeil

Welcome guests: Nance Reed

Agenda for July 30, 2024, Review & Approve:

- *Wayne moved to approve. Clare seconded. Agenda approved with changes.*

Minutes of June 25, 2024, Review & Approve:

- *Melissa moved to approve. Ian seconded. Minutes approved.*

Board Education:

- Discussed the Atlantic article, “The Sad Future of Grocery Shopping”.
- Climate change has been affecting food production for years, but it is accelerating quickly.
- Example: Olive Oil prices have doubled due to drought. Peanuts, sugar, vanilla, etc. are going up in price due to effects from climate change (global warming, extreme weather events, drought, etc.).
- In the future, the produce we are looking at might have very limited availability, or extreme price inflation.
 - Psychological toll: Americans may soon be asking, “What can I have” instead of, “What do I want?”.
- Local example: Gary Romano, local farmer, has been struggling with the recent heat because his tomatoes are splitting open.
- Possible fixes: Vertical farming, buying local.
- Wayne to write a short Scoop article about this.

Reports:

Manager’s Reports

- **FYI GM June Report**
 - Pretty good month.
 - Decreased sales compared to last year, partly due to lack of attendance at High Sierra Music Festival.
 - Donated \$1,200 to local organizations Plumas Disc Golf and Friends of Plumas Wilderness through Round Up at the Register.

- The Annual Meeting was in June, and was a success.
- Bank accounts are increasing.
- Focusing on decreasing inventory and training new staff.
- In Quincy, looking for part-time stockers.
- **A-Ends (Part B)**
 - We've updated our comment card system, which allows customers to be heard.
 - Marcie to change wording regarding us buying only "organic and non-GMO" foods, which we do not.
 - Board and membership committee to create a customer service survey in October.
 - Utilization of solar panels in Quincy, hope to install in Portola someday.
 - Spent around \$250,000 on local producers in 2023, a good number.
- **B1 - Quarter 1**
 - Some areas of noncompliance that need to be addressed.
 - We came in on Q1 with negative net income, mostly due to high labor costs, high occupancy costs. One area we are actively working on is Portola's COGs. This is related to pricing not being adequately checked and over-purchasing in certain departments—Marcie has begun giving budgets to departments.
 - Issues dealing with heat in Portola—AC doesn't do much. Hoping that building owners might upgrade windows and AC.

Ian motioned to approve A - Ends (Part B) and B1 Q1 Reports. Melissa seconded. Motion carried.

Old Business:

- **Board Recruitment**
 - Tim talked to Kim Kraul about potentially running.
 - Marcie spoke to someone (Tom Holden, maybe) at the annual meeting about potentially running, who was interested.
 - Clare spoke to Denise Battagen and another person at the annual meeting about potentially running; they both seemed interested.
- **Board Retreat Updates**
 - August 17th, from around 9am-1pm.
 - Due to Mill Fire, folks were not responding. Melissa will follow up with them soon.
 - Normally meet for an hour before the tour; subject: to review bylaws. Ross to make changes to bylaws.
- **Breakfast With The Board Updates**
 - October 5th.
 - Meeting August 6th to discuss specifics.
 - Topic: Bringing WIC to the co-op.
- **Annual Meeting Debrief**
 - Overall, was well-received, but the heat was the downside.
 - Plenty of food, good band.
 - Finance tent: No one talked to Marcie about the finances.
 - Next year, reach out to Yuba Expeditions about tents.
 - Perhaps calling the Annual Meeting something else next year and marketing it

more as a celebration, with the “Annual Meeting” portion annexed off in a different area (members only).

- **Committee Charter Review**
 - Committees will review charters in August.

New Business:

- None

Committee Reports:

- **Board Development:**
 - Did not meet since last board meeting, but there are many potential candidates.
- **Membership:**
 - Ian is new chair of the membership committee.
 - Upcoming meeting August 6th.
 - Will discuss annual meeting and review committee charter.
- **Finance:**
 - Had meeting on July 15th.
 - Went over different business policies such as business insurance (which increased).
 - Workers comp went down thousands of dollars (less accidents, etc.).
 - Situation in Portola improving.
 - Decided to have traditional financial review to be done. If they find something, they will recommend an audit.
 - Will meet on August 6th at 5pm.
- **Policy:**
 - Will meet on August 5th at 5pm.
- **Executive:**
 - Has not met for a while.
 - Next meeting: August 9th at 5:30pm.
- **Farmers Market:**
 - July meeting was canceled last minute due to most of the committee not being able to attend.
 - Good news: We have a little over \$2,000 in the bank from sponsors and donations, and expect more soon. We are trying to get the word out about sponsorships, so we could use the help of the board on that.
 - Bad news: Carly, the person from public health who has been trying to get us funding came to the conclusion that Cal Fresh, her organization, can't provide any funding nor a EBT card reader, like we'd hoped. But she has sent us in the direction for the market to apply for and become an approved EBT vendor, at which point the state will send us an EBT machine.
 - We hope to have our next meeting in mid August.
 - Marcie to send Ross committee charter.

Closings:

- **Board Member Check In:**
 - Clare mentioned having a certain product of protein bar at FRFC. Marcie to follow

up with distributors.

- **Review Decisions, Tasks, Assignments:**
 - Next board educator: Tim Jones.
 - Next facilitator: Ian Schrammel.
 - All committees are meeting in August to review charters.
 - Board retreat on the 17th and Melissa will try to reach out to farmers.
 - Wayne will write a short scoop article about climate change and groceries.
 - Ross will update the bylaws.
- **Review Board Calendar:**
 - Calendar was reviewed.
- **Next BOD Meeting:** September 24th, 2024.
- **Summary for Employee Memo:** Melissa.

Adjourn Meeting:

Clare motioned to adjourn the meeting. Melissa seconded. Motion approved. The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 pm.

Closed Session: N/A.

Note: The Outreach Coordinator makes approved changes to the prior meeting's minutes and forwards the final version to the board secretary and the board president. The Outreach Coordinator posts the final minutes in the board Google Drive folder, and the Outreach Coordinator posts in the store and on the FRFC website.