



Minutes

Board of Directors Meeting

April 17, 2025

PRESENT: Anch Bergeson, Jim Hutcheon, Dave Toler, Federica Faggioli, Bob Marasalli, Jeni O'Connor, Ike Nwankwo, Andie Giron, Ruth Brownstein, Jennifern Falknor (via Zoom)

OTHER MEMBERS PRESENT: Trudy Springer, Miles Batchelder

FACILITATION: Jeni

NOTES: Max Crabapple

Announcements

There were no announcements

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of the cooperative is to contribute to the health and well-being of people by providing wholesome foods and other goods and services, accessible to all, through a locally oriented, collectively managed, not-for-profit cooperative organization that relies on consensus decision making. We strive to make human effects on the earth and its inhabitants positive and renewing, and to encourage economic and social justice. Our goals are to:

- Provide information about food
- Make good food accessible to more people
- Support efforts to increase democratic process
- Support efforts to foster a socially and economically egalitarian society
- Provide information about collective process and consensus decision making
- Support local production
- See to the long term health of the business
- Assist in the development of local community resources

Land Acknowledgement

We start the meeting today by taking a moment to honor the land and the people whose ancestors

have been stewards of this unceded land since time immemorial.

We acknowledge the contemporary communities of Squaxin Island, Nisqually and all the people of the Medicine Creek Treaty.

Member Comment

Trudy Springer shared her belief that the members are not owners under the way the Olympia Food Co-op is incorporated. The member inquired about the status of the land back proposal. *(Response - the Advocacy Committee will be reaching out to the tribes to work on what reparations could look like.)*

Previous Commitments

- Miles will work with local committee - *Miles is moving forward with the Local Committee. He will be contacting all the Committee members tonight.*
- Anch will work with Kaia on the next steps for the Board of Directors' section of the website - *in progress*

Low Income proposal, from the Advocacy Committee

Dave is bringing a proposal to charge all members a \$10/yr fee with an opt-in for high-income members to contribute more and for low-income memberships to be granted an increased discount of 15% off groceries.

The intention goal isn't to consent and to put this into action next week, but rather to look seriously at showing some generosity while staying budget neutral. Coupling the fee with making food more accessible, i.e. a \$10/year fee and an opt-in higher fee for high-income members in order to off-set a higher low-member discount, wasn't specifically asked about in the member survey, so members' openness to the yearly fee without that context would be very different than with this context.

The board discussed consideration around not making members 'prove' their low-income, possibly normalizing self-reflections for all members to consider their financial position in relation to their membership fees, and possible next steps for the advocacy committee. Should they find more information for members of the board to better understand how this proposal could come to fruition?

Jim commits to emailing the board to request feedback to take to the Advocacy Committee.

2025 Non-Member Surcharge Proposal

The Board discusses the current application of the \$10 threshold. It's been a \$10 threshold for 30 years. The staff has already consented to the threshold being bumped to \$20.

There's discussion about the structure of the non-member surcharge, rather than a member discount, taken at the register. This is connected to the structure of having individual memberships and not household memberships, and that is being looked at separately.

Proposal: Increase threshold for applying nonmember surcharge to \$20 from \$10.

Block: 0

Stand aside: 0

Consent: 10

CONSENT

Resilient Power Project Grant

American Microgrant has provided a grant as part of their work with the Clean Energy Group – a group of states that have decided to move forward with green energy. Having a feasibility study by these third-party consultants will put us in a better position to get money from a grant so that we can then approach the state for this funding. If we approve this scope of work, it comes with a contract to begin the work. They haven't been particular about the exact site – if we have the feasibility study and changes are made to our properties because of expansion, this is not a problem. There can be a rooftop system, a carport system, it's pretty flexible.

Dave is looking for approval from the board for this scope of work. The contract will be coming in maybe next week, and Dave would then be emailing that contract to the board for consent.

Proposal: The board approves the scope of work that comes with engaging American Microgrid Solutions to produce a technical/financial feasibility study to evaluate a Resilient Power system for the Olympia Food Co-op. The Board approves the contract that comes from the scope of work, and that one or more board members may sign the contract.

Block: 0

Stand aside: 0

Consent: 10

CONSENT

Board Development with Dr. Bree

The Board will pick a date in June to work with Dr. Bree.

THURSDAY JUNE 12, 3-6pm

The board commits to this being mask-mandatory, and **Jim will connect with Dr. Bree about this.**

Board of Directors' Pages on OFC Website

The idea is, so far, there will be a URL shared with board members to get to Board-specific website pages that will be private. No links that the public could click on.

The Board of Directors page would be password protected, and then have links that are *not* password protected for:

- contact info
- committees
- code of conduct

Is that okay with everyone on the board? There's a suggestion of including the contact info on the page that is password protected, rather than having a separate page for contact information. It could also include phone numbers.

Expansion Committee

The Committee met recently. Fern is working on a communications plan. This work connects with the Capital Campaign. The feasibility contract with NCG is in the works; Kitty and Redwood are meeting with them regularly. They're looking at who will do the market study. There are three vendors who've put in a bid.

Capital Campaign Committee

They met on Wednesday. They're in the process of identifying an attorney to contract with in terms of our structure as a co-op/but not a co-op, and how we can raise money, like preferred membership status. As we're not a 501 3c, there are some grants we can't go for, though we can piggyback on a 501 3c to work with. NCG has this option for us and other coops to use for fundraising, but they take 10% off the top, so that's a consideration. They've also been looking at past surveys of members – there's a qualitative survey that staff are working through to provide useful information.

Personnel Committee of the Board

They met for the first time in a long time. The charter no longer feels current, as the board's relationship with hiring and firing has changed.

Community Sustaining Fund

There are 6 applicants so far. They'll look at all applications on April 30 and interview applicants May 5. Zomi's Kitchen has received more money through the round up at the registers over the last six months. CSF will look into other funding sources, and will be tabling at Procession of the Species.

Staff Report

Sales are good, but the roadwork at the Eastside is being felt. Westside sales are up 12%, Eastside is up 7%. Expansion into the annex across the street from the Eastside is complete. Maggie Jay is working with GRuB on a Juneteenth party. We won't be having a May Day event this year, but maybe next year. There will be staff art here at the downtown office for Spring Arts Walk.

Commitments

- Jim will email the Board requesting feedback related to the Low-Income Proposal to bring to the Advocacy Committee.
- Jim will connect with Dr. Bree about masking at the June 12 session.

Meeting evaluation

Jeni felt she was maybe too relaxed as a facilitator, but sitting next to Jim made it all work out. Others voiced appreciation for the facilitation.