

Bluff Country Co-op Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 10, 2022

6pm – 8pm

Community Room

Attendees: Krissy Rowland, General Manager; Alexa Shapiro, Administrative Assistant

Board Members Present: Jenn Baechle, Aurea Osgood, Kay Pedretti, Josh Datta, Jennifer Sanborn, Marie Perry, Brenna Curry, Rose Dikel (board alternate - attended virtually via Zoom)

Board Members Absent: Laura Johnson, Ann Lichliter

TOPIC	DESCRIPTION	ACTION/OUTCOME
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		Yay	Nay	Abstain
Owner Member Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Four owners spoke at today’s meeting to address masking concerns in light of the Omicron variant of Covid-19. One owner expressed concern about the rising cases locally and how this makes them feel uneasy in the co-op. They discussed the co-op’s commitment to the 7 principles, in particular the commitment to health and wellness, and how masking mandates support this value. They highlighted specific concerns for deli staff not being masked while making food. Another owner discussed their discomfort going to the co-op due to the lack of mask wearing by staff and customers. They try to avoid unmasked individuals, but have struggled to do so. They talked about the efforts of a local arts organization and said they haven’t received pushback from the public about masking and vaccination requirements put into effect there. One owner talked about their involvement at the co-op as an owner/investor. They’re concerned about the health of the staff and customers, and noted that unmasked individuals may impact the store’s ability to stay open as the virus spreads. They want the board to consider this as an economic decision and believe a mask requirement would support the financial health of the co-op. Another owner stated opposition to mask mandates because they felt they are ineffective and performative. They felt that, if customers are being asked to mask, it should be a vote among owners. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The board reviewed other comments made by owners via email and in person and discussed a variety of options. Ultimately it was decided that the board would allow this to be a GM decision and support it. The GM decided to have staff wear masks when they are on the sales floor, in view of the sales floor, or in prep or back areas where social distancing is not possible. Customer masking will remain a recommendation but not a mandate, due to difficulty with enforcing. 			
December Task Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No tasks were carried over. 			
Review December Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Jenn motioned to approve the minutes. Aurea seconded. 	7	0	0
Committee Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Finance: Brenna will be the Chair for 2022. ● Owner Outreach: Jenn will be the Chair for 2022. ● Food Equity: Jenn will be the Chair for 2022. 			

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board Development Committee: Ann will be the Chair for 2022. • Community Fund Advisory Committee: Aurea will be the board representative. 			
Review B5: Treatment of Consumers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B5 Treatment of Consumers: Customer numbers have increased slightly since 2020, but they are still not on par with 2019 numbers. Customer comments have generally been positive. The BCC's rating compared to other NCG co-ops is above the average, with the biggest areas of "negative comments" coming from items out of the co-ops control, like product availability. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jenn motioned to approve B5. Jennifer seconded. 	7	0	0
Review Dividends Vote	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dividends Vote: The board voted virtually to approve dividend payouts to a select number of owners who had submitted requests. 			
GM Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GM Update: December did well in sales, especially compared to the large increase in sales in December 2020. Sales were down just 1.6% but EBT sales were still on the rise compared to prior years. DUFEB hit the fundraising goal of \$2K. The co-op did the Home Federal holiday dinners again this year and it went well. The BCC will be at the Frozen River Film Festival this year to sell food. The co-op's lawyer also retired, so the co-op now has a different point of contact. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jennifer motioned to approve the GM update. Jenn seconded. 	7	0	0

Tasks	Responsible Party
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respond to all owner emails who reached out regarding mask mandates 	Jenn
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Email Alexa with what committee you plan to join for 2022 	Laura
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Email Alexa and Jenn with your committee meeting dates/times 	Committee Chairs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update the Google calendar with new committee dates/times 	Alexa
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact Krissy with information about the shopper survey 	Aurea