

## LVC meeting 3/25/20

Board members present Karen Traub, Jono Neiger, Jeff Lacy, Lise Coppinger, Ann Ferguson, Martin Pittman, Julio Mendez, Danielle Barshak, Sam Black

Meeting opened at 7:07 pm

Minutes of 3/18/20 approved as written

Julio is welcomed back from his hiatus unanimously

Election of President - Karen's motion to table the decision to choose a president is not seconded. Ann makes a motion that is seconded to have the president position shared between Sam and Jono. Karen expresses concern that it is not an acceptable idea to share the presidency, it is confusing to our members and probably not kosher with the Secretary of State. Jono says he is not comfortable with the president being ambiguous, according to the bylaws it is not acceptable to have co-presidency but as long the agreements are clear there can be this kind of differentiation. Jeff says Jono is still controversial to some, that Jono is doing an excellent job as treasurer and that Jeff is not confident in Ann's ability to act as treasurer- Jeff's thought about the co-presidency is that it is messy, who speaks for the coop? The bylaws do not have a large role for president beyond signing contracts, calling meetings but is not someone empowered to control what goes on at the Coop. Jeff is willing to continue in the ministerial role as acting president, relying on the committees and the management to do their work. Danielle says she feels it is important to have a president and given that the 2 nominees have made an agreement, that we should go forward with the co-presidency- we should abide by that Sam says that the agreement between him and Jono will keep the coop moving in a positive direction. Sam is happy to leave Jeff as acting president and allow all to continue in their roles. Jono says he is feeling stubborn, carrying a lot of the load, has been in this a long time, has continuity and doing a list of things in play, does not want to be in an ambiguous role- if people are upset with what happened we should set them straight about lies and mismanagement- if people see me as the problem we should talk about that. I am unwilling to continue in an ambiguous position. If I am just going to be treasurer, I will let go of the loose ends I am managing- we need clarity, accountability and to move forward.

Ann says she does not have a financial background but is learning to use spreadsheets and has been talking to Cory Greenburg. Agrees with Danielle it is important to have a president and would like to find a way to present the fact of co-presidency to the state. Jeff says another way to do this is to leave Jono as treasurer and create a position for Sam with personnel, training of staff, hygiene protocol. Losing Jono as treasurer is a concern. Lise is thinking about the demand that is on the Coop and the president job seems like too big a job for one person. Jono says he has been working more closely with Paul than Jeff. Not one to toot my horn but I'm the one who has been on the board for a long time, I am good at it and Sam and I have talked it through. Jeff clarifies it would be a period where the vice president acts as president. Julio apologizes for putting us in this position and expresses surprise at Jeff's willingness to step up- thinks that would work out well for now and then we can make a solid vote when we have all 11 board members. Julio thinks now might not be the time to make a solid vote and perhaps we should go with Jeff as acting president. Martin asks whether Sam would be comfortable with Jono being in the role of President. Discussion continued for one hour.

Vote is taken Jeff as president 2 votes, Jono and Sam 7, Abstain 1

Jono proceeds with facilitating the meeting reminding board members that anyone can facilitate. Ann is elected as treasurer by majority of 8

Fundraising- Sam tells that we decided to build another \$20,000 challenge to garner the dairy case, ice cream freezer and other items, Karen wrote an appeal letter. Ann suggests we go for the \$5,000 for the freezer and then a challenge grant comes in so that we try to get \$10,000- we have \$2,700. We have \$1,500 already for the \$5,000- Ann would like to hold out \$1,000 from Ann, \$1,000 from Jono, \$250 from Danielle. Sam met and talked to Larry Miller who donated \$500 to this campaign and will provide us with an additional \$500 for every house sold by him where the client has been recommended by the Coop for four years. Karen mentions the wall of Champions where donors of money and in kind donations can be recognized. Previous donors will be thanked. Alex Phillips reported \$1,000 came in through the gofundme page and there needs to be some updating of the gofundme. Julio will work with the fundraising and communication committees. \$9000 has recently gone into fundraising account.

Lise reports that the energy audit originally was going to be \$22,000 with an investment by the Coop of \$10,000 in upgrade costs but because the utility company decided to fund the project in full, the cost to the Coop will be \$0. Annual savings from electricity will be \$6,000.

Martin points out the cost of the freezer includes associated costs- freezers at Atkins are in good shape, no major repairs, store is slated to close in June but inventory is low, price may be flexible. Paul is exploring other options including less expensive or donated.

Jono says the turnaround plan depends on maintaining inventory and so the coolers are a high priority. Sam and Jeff looked at the freezer and wondered about the possibility of using the current freezer for inventory- check in with Paul about that.

Treasurer's report in the operating account there is \$23,000 and \$9,000 in the donations account. Still working on the cash flow worksheets. Susan Walker has been helping with bookkeeping, regular hours, volunteered the first week and now being paid. Cash audit flow \$5,900-\$8,901 per week. We are still precarious with vendors Cisco and Unfi as well as the Amex card. Somebody needs to be checking the [villagecoop@gmail.com](mailto:villagecoop@gmail.com) account- perhaps Jean has access- clarification needs to happen. Jono will send the turnaround plan- recommended to stimulate business by paying debt and increasing inventory. About \$20,000 in vendor debt has been paid and vendor relationships are being repaired.

Update: Jeff's letter of resignation from the board was received

Lori Lynn reports long term event planning has been on hold but communications continue- Ann has been working nonstop with the newsletter sub-committee of the communication committee for the past 2 weeks because things keep changing. Newsletter will be published Saturday or ASAP.

Discussion about emails- suggestion to resist the need to email the whole board and agreed by all to try to wait for the next meeting when possible.

Expressions of dismay about Jeff's resignation were shared.

Meeting adjourned at 9:02pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Traub