

Draft Agenda for Co-op Board Meeting 6-3-20

Present: Sam Black, Ann Ferguson, Danielle Barshak, Martin Pittman, Jeff Lacy, Karen Traub, Lise Coppinger

Absent: Jean Bergstrom, Jono Neiger, Lori Lynn Hoffer

Minutes for 5-20-20 Approved

President's Report (Sam)

- UNFI debt issue and decisions. Agreement negotiated with UNFI's lawyer and signed by Sam as President of the LVC. We have paid \$12.5K on our debt to them, and will have \$12.5K to pay by August 1 to pay our debt completely (with a savings of more than \$6K from what we owed). We paid that initial \$12.5K from PPP money. We asked UNFI's lawyer his opinion as to whether UNFI would reopen delivery and his view is that they would.

Discussion: Ann asked whether the agreement commits Sam and Jono to be guarantors on the UNFI account, and the answer is No: Sam signs the agreement as the President of the LVC Board but that doesn't make him a guarantor in the future. Lise asked what are the next steps, and Paul says just start ordering.

- The original PPP loan ends on June 8. The end of June is the first time to send in the forgiveness request but the Boston SBA says hold off writing application since the new PPP loan forgiveness deadline isn't until Oct. 30. Sam clarified that we will finish spending the loan/grant by June 8 but we can extend our paperwork to apply for loan forgiveness at least a month.
- Other

Amherst Chamber of Commerce says next phase of Covid economy opening will allow outdoor dining to start next month. Sam spoke to Paul about outdoor dining. Paul asks for Executive Committee meeting next week to discuss this and other matters. Jeff asks why not put more picnic tables out front, and Sam pointed out there is a children's playground there. There is a question re: alcohol delivery and consumption and whether the state ABCC (Alcohol and Beverages Control Commission) has to approve.

Danielle and Ann discussed this question. Danielle said she was there when ABCC guy came out initially and it was clear that alcohol consumption had to be separated by a fence from other spaces. Ann pointed out that the space had to be marked by dividers of some sort but not necessarily a wire fence, and thought that the space had to be contiguous to the store building.

Karen suggested tabling this discussion until next week.

- Jono expects to have finances available from Susan Walker by next week through May 31 2020.

Fundraising (Karen)

Joe from WRSI hasn't gotten back re LVC advertising. Karen has been in contact with Sara Robertson, (the person works for Hawks and Reed and social media). She is interested to help. Campaign with Membership Drive: Share your Coop story, create a little video about your story.

GoFundMe page issue handed off to SW who suggested that we close the current GoFundMe. Nick Seamon donated tomatoes. Someone came in and offered to mow the lawn. Goodwill is happening. New people are coming in. Small donations coming in.

Sam: Sid Poritz donation of 1K was for Amex card. Ann said that was not her opinion about that donation since she solicited it for the Equipment campaign.

Question: What about opening new GoFundMes? Issue was unresolved.

There was a discussion of whether to combine the Pay Local Vendor Debt campaign and the Capital campaign and whether to have a list of vendors that donors could contribute to on the GoFundMe page. Martin suggested maybe list the vendors but not the amount owed them, so that some people would be motivated to donate to pay off particular vendors. Another perspective: listing amounts owed to each vendor could allow people to choose to pay off an entire debt.

Communications and Member Outreach (Ann)

- Membership process and data Protocol notes are continuing to be edited, and Suzette Snow-Cobb has been volunteering at the store to bring our data up to date. Suzette, Lise and Ann continue to work on editing and clarifying the notes for the complicated data processing for member share purchases and information.
- Lori and Jean created a new Coop bookmark which looks great!!

Infrastructure (Lise)

- Lighting is completely finished and is beautiful. Leftover fluorescent bulbs are available to be donated.
- Hit a stone wall with electrician because Mo says we need HVAC inspection first. Brian Blynn had started removal, had to stop since freon still not removed. MJ Moran would do freon but not electrical. Lise: We still need someone to commit to removing what is there and then installing new.
- Question of the bathroom light which now goes on with sensor. Lise agrees we need to have a regular switch. Also, radio loses reception. Either the lights or the radio can be on. Larry installed this outlet. Lise will reach out to him and see how to solve this problem.
- Hand sanitizer question: Karen wants to know whether it is required or not? Separate table? Is this a question for Paul?
- Questions were raised about the purchase of the large ice cream freezer. Process is ongoing for strategic reasons of cost efficiency. We can say regarding our equipment fundraising campaign that the money donated has been given to the manager and he is negotiating for freezer.

Sustainability Committee (Danielle report on committee meeting to develop a protocol)

- Presently restaurant food compost is going to people to pick up for animal feed. Buckets need to be rinsed before returned.
- We need to set up a separate compost system for coffee grounds.
- Re: compost from customer side of restaurant: What do we do re utensils? We need to create a compost recycle station in the store for customer use, as well as one or two outside for summer eating out. We would need to figure out where this would be. We would need to design it to specs suggested in the store by the General Manager.
- We have an agreement with Leverett Transfer Station (LTS) to deliver Food Compost there as long as there is capacity. If not, there is a business called Marty's in Greenfield to which we can take the compost at no fee. Jeff agreed to take our present food compost to the LTS, "That's what I do."

Old Business

- Public Zoom Meeting

Discussion ensued, resulting in an agreement that we will announce a date and an agenda for a public meeting. Karen suggests each Board member would give a summary of what they are doing for the Coop on committees. We are delaying plans for a fundraising Telethon while the WRSI ad and update our website are being developed.

Martin, Sam and others discussed the importance of having some concrete financials so as to show the Board's progress in the last 5 months. We had originally hoped to do this public Board Zoom meeting in June but there is an issue with getting the financials done to date. **Decision is to aim for July 15 for a public Board Zoom meeting, and try to have the financials to show profits, losses and balance sheet from January to May 31.**

Respectfully submitted

Ann Ferguson, Clerk