

IGM Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Date: Dec 19, 2023

Called to order at 5:31pm

Attendees: Jon Grothe, Denise Albrecht-Simpson, Dixie Grothe, MJ Schneider, in person

Ric Carlson, Cristobel von Walstrom, via phone

GUESTS:

Roxanne Carlson (store manager) , via phone

The President read a statement on the debt of store, to whom it's owed, how much has been paid to date and what is left.

We have paid \$12,000 of debt to vendors. We have \$29,000 of debt remaining, plus our line of credit, total owed is \$36,400 to date. Negotiations were made to pay \$500/mo to a large vendor for past due invoices. Members were asked for help again, to purchase items from co-op every week, make donations, and volunteer for various duties at co-op.

OPEN FORUM: 11 members attended. Questions asked, the board responded.

Why are sales down? We're "not sure" of all the reasons, but the community isn't supporting the co-op because they have other sources for food, such as their own gardens, more organic and local sources are available, and they can have food delivered. Although some say it's because we have been out of items, without knowing the reasons behind it, this opinion doesn't say what we DO have to purchase. Instead of buying the items they CAN get while they're already there, they head for other stores they may be planning to go to anyway. We offer seasonal items as they are available. Can anyone honestly say the store has ever been able to do that? We have 225 members who have not even spent \$100 this year at the store. How can this sustain the store?

Ideas from members:

- become a totally volunteer coop
- can't have cans on shelves of stuff that is not selling
- Pledge drives
- Grant money
- Contributions from members
- Board needs to be more transparent
- Raise a hog and auction off
- BULK ORDERS
- NEW VENDORS—who will supply us with what we order, no substitutes

- Bring back Azure bulk ordering
- Mandatory volunteer hours for all members (would need to go on membership application, and would be for future members, as the current members have signed an application that does NOT require mandatory volunteer hours)
- seasonal membership
- piggyback our orders with another co-op (if possible)
- change hours of store and/or days of the week
- Open for summer only? Then bulk orders for winter?
- do more fundraising (form a volunteer fundraising committee)
- ask members to buy gift cards or send donations
- Capitol Fundraising needed
- call all members and ask them to shop more, ask for bulk orders, and recruit volunteers

Other comments:

- publish the results were form the survey done in the Summer this year
- use constant contact more
- want treasurers report posted on website, or at least a summary
- more communication from board
- recruit younger members for future volunteers
- want "better" minutes

2. Secretary's Report: Denise

Motion to accept the October & November meeting minutes. Moved by Dixie; Second by MJ – Motion carried

3. Treasurer's Report: Dixie

To receive financial reports or ask questions regarding the co-op, contact board@idealgreenmarket.com
 Motion to accept the November's treasurer's report. Moved by Denise; Second by MJ – Motion carried

4. Store Manager's Report: Roxanne

New Members: no new members

Currently using constant contact, Facebook to inform members of specials and products. Taking fruit that is close to expiration and freezing and then selling as smoothie ingredients in attempt to save on waste. Having Sample Saturday's and special ads to try to get people in the store.

5. Old Business

We need sales and volunteers! We need people to shop every week at the co-op, regular help with the register, cleaning, stocking, and indoor/outdoor maintenance.

6. New Business

In order to save as much money as possible right now, we are changing to winter hours as of Jan 3, 2024: Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 12 noon- 6pm, Saturday's 10:00-3pm

MOTION: moved MJ, 2 nd , Dixie. MOTION PASSED

Elections: Denise will be contacting members in January to get a slate of people interested in becoming a board member. The applications will be distributed and asked to be turned into the board. Elections are at the June annual meeting.

7. Committee Reports / Committee roles:

a. Human Resources: Ric

(Went into Executive session for this discussion)

b. Volunteers: MJ

Need volunteers for cashiering, cleaning, unloading

c. Marketing/Promotion: Cristobel (no report)

d. Facilities / Building: Jon

Need Volunteers to help with mowing, fixing things like lights, etc

e. Ideal Corners Giving Garden: Geoff (No report)

f. Farmer's Market: Denise

As reported in previous meeting minutes, recruitment for the new farmer's market manager starts in January 2024.

OPEN FORUM:

We ran Open forum at the beginning of the meeting. The members attending requested a follow-up meeting. Every Board meeting is a follow-up to the previous meeting.

Next Board Meeting: January 22 at 5:30 (Monday)

Motion to adjourn: Moved by Dixie – Motion carried

Meeting adjourned at 7:53 pm

Respectfully submitted by: Denise Albrecht Simpson
