

# TPSS Board of Representatives Meeting

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Date: August 21, 2017

Time and Place: 6:30pm, TPSS Community Room

Board present: Rachel Hardwick (RH), Robert Anderson (RA), Melissa Schweisguth (MS), Adam Frank (AF), Susan Cho (SC), Mary Rooker (MR)

Absent: John Cox (JC), Fred Feinstein (FF), David Zuckerman (DZ)

Staff present: Martha Whitman (MW)

Attendees present: Molly Chlebnikow (MC), Shawn Hendley (SH), Tiffany Schoolfield (TS), Katie Starbird-Tierney (KST), Bruce Wolf (BW), Candace Wolf (CW), and Kenneth Yates (KY)

Minutes submitted by: Solveig Mortensen (SM)

## RESOLUTIONS:

- The Board approved the June 25, 2017 open session Board meeting minutes as submitted.

RH summarized that the meeting's agenda had shifted to include the Bylaws revisions vote, a review of the changes of the Board representative members on the Board committees, and a retraction of the item of Policy Committee update.

**Open Member Forum:** CW gave a general introduction of the group assembled for the meeting, stating that many of them were Co-op and community members. CW relayed that they had been involved in organizing a campaign and creating an online petition in support of Co-op workers who want to unionize. They encouraged the Board to review the petition, particularly paying attention to the points on wages and the comments, and to bargain in good faith with the union.

**GM Update:** MW described the work she has been doing to assess the Co-op's immediate and ongoing needs and respond to newly emerging priorities, such as honoring the employees' rights to vote whether to unionize. MW relayed that she wanted to assure people that the Co-op will negotiate in good faith with the union.

MW further shared how she is working with managers to be more strategic with pricing and sales; considering a more rigorous budget process that would amongst other things, be more effective in supporting grant work; evaluating what systems could be best for the Co-op; and searching for a new human resources director.

MW reported that with AF and FF's accompaniment, she met with Takoma Park's Mayor and various Takoma Park City Council Representatives. MW stated that she also met with Colleen Scott, the project manager who previously worked with the Co-op, to address grant deadlines and the development project.

**Bylaws Revisions Vote update:** MS shared that the Bylaws revisions vote outcome was strongly *in favor* for all proposed changes, although the final numbers need to be validated.

Approximately 265 members voted. MAS noted that the Co-op should communicate more clearly in future Co-op elections that only the shareholding member can cast a vote, and not other household shoppers under that member number. MAS also noted that the Co-op needs to determine which members have "working" emails and thus may now receive member meeting and vote notices by emails versus postal mailings. The Board planned to certify the election count at the September Board meeting.

The Board discussed how the Maryland Consumer Cooperative act requires that co-ops have an audit annually.

**MCAC Update:**

Members of the Membership and Community Affairs Committee and Board shared the proposed agenda for the October member-owners meeting for board discussion.

The Board reviewed the Board representative's committee assignments.

Board Representatives' Committee Memberships:

Membership and Community Affairs Committee: FF, Chair; SC, MR, JC

Audit and Finance Committee: AF, Chair, RA, MS, DZ

Personnel Committee: RH, Chair; RA, MR

Policy Committee: MS and SC, Co-Chairs; DZ, AF, MS

Nominations Committee: RH, Chair; AF, MS, FF

Term 2017:

Rep.	Dec	Jan	Mar	April	May	June	July*	Aug
Anderson	*	*	*	*	*	*		*
Cox		*	ex	*	*	*		ex
	(Appointed Jan.2017)							
Cho	*	*	*	*	*	*		*
Feinstein	*	*	*	ex	*	*		ex
Frank	*	*	*	*	*	ex		*
Hardwick	*	*	*	*	*	*		*
Rooker	*	*	*	*	*	*		*
Schweisguth	ex	*	*	*	*	*		*
Zuckerman	*	*	*	*	*	ex		ex

\*no July 2017 meeting

Meeting adjourned 7:15p.m.