

NOTES OF CO-OP MEMBERSHIP May 14, 2019

Fred, Sawa, Diane, Mike, Leandra, Denny May

1. MEMBER MEETING MAY 19
 - a. We reviewed agenda for membership meeting on May 19. **Fred** will finish it.
 - b. Agenda and bylaw changes will be on the tables.
 - c. Hang up Thursdays at the Co-op banner.
 - d. **Fred** will bring sound system.
 - e. We will put chairs in circular rows.
 - f. **Sawa** will pick up the food in Silver Spring at 1:30.
 - g. Denny points out that food provider, Bete, is famous Ethiopian restaurant in DC
 - h. **Leandra** will send e-mail reminder

2. Denny suggests a composting demo, put it on the parking lot so that people can see the process unfolding over a period of months. Mike says we currently use Compost CAB. But recently Compost Crew did a presentation. Wanted an opportunity to bid for the Co-op's business. At the OTBA board meeting, people said there are some restaurants in town who aren't sure what to do. Mike has connected them with Compost Crew – potential for expanding commercial composting. The Co-op has 2 pickups/week.

3. Mike says we are getting a gold certification for “Green America” -- certified green businesses. First grocery store in Montgomery to achieve that designation. We all agree it's important to widely publicize this important accomplishment.

4. Sawa went to Essex House event. Frustrating in some ways. Some people want bulk buying. They say they shop at Ethiopian stores. Mike says that for populations that we're not able to accommodate with bulk sales grocery stores, we should emphasize Thursday nights and other special occasions. Fred – Is there no possibility/interest in stocking products they want? Mike would not take business away from small businesses in Silver Spring. But he would try to take business from Costco. He says he would offer to price bulk items. **Sawa** plans to go back. She has tried to contact Grace Wiggins from the City staff. Doesn't hear back. **Diane** will help her getting a meeting with her. Leandra has an idea to have building liaisons at different apartment building and give them a discount. **Leandra and Mike** will talk about it. She also thinks community center would be a place to distribute flyers. The PTAs are another opportunity.

5. Leandra went to a marketing workshop. She learned that every 2 weeks is best interval for e-mails to members. That is her goal for our Co-op's regular communications with members.

6. The Art Hop was a success for the Co-op. We sold a lot of wine.

7. Membership #s (new members) were strong for first quarter of the year.

8. Thursdays at the Co-op: all performance slots are filled. It is desirable. Vendors are happy. Fred said he'd been asked why the event wasn't on a Friday nights. Mike says Fridays are problematic, would be difficult to move. Posters with names of bands will be hung up. Don't do it too far in advance. Social media posts call out the bands scheduled for week of.
9. Membership committee will get ambassadors to each neighborhood. **Diane** will send an e-mail to Takoma Vision people to ask for contacts. **Fred** will read it first. Leandra will send us a nice ad every week.
10. Co-op board is supposed to "table" on Thursday night. **Fred** will be there from 5:30 to 6:30. **Fred** will send out a request for volunteers for tabling.