

TPSS Board of Representatives Meeting

Date: November 21, 2019

Board present: Diane Curran (DC), Fred Feinstein (FF), Adam Frank (AF), Rachel Hardwick (RH), Sawa Kamara (SK), Susan Cho (SC), Susanne Lowen (SL)

Board excused: Julia Eddy (JE), Katea Stitt (KS)

Staff & consultants present: Mike Houston (MH)

Members Present: N/A

Minutes prepared by: Susan Cho (SC)

BOARD ACTIONS:

- Board approved the minutes from the October 2019 Open board meeting.
- Board accepted resubmitted L3 Compensation and Benefits report.
- Board approved proposed changes to Policy Register's section on Governance.

Open member forum:

No non-Board members present. SC reported that comments were showing up in FB Buy Nothing Group and Nextdoor about the plethora of bread in the Co-op dumpster. MH explained that they were thrown out by drivers from the vendors themselves. When the contract is for “guaranteed sales,” the vendor's driver stocks the shelves directly, removing older stock, recording how much there is (that was not sold), and adding fresher stock. It was suggested that drivers and TPSS receiving staff be explicitly reminded (perhaps with signage) to utilize the standard TPSS protocol for unsalable stock: 1) allow staff to take what they want, 2) donate to partnered orgs, or 3) add to designated bins for pickup from composting partner. Board members may disseminate information about the situation and what TPSS is doing to address it.

GM Updates:

General GM Report: Improvements in sales figures due to: 1) better management of store, now that we have a GM so Store Manager Hussein Choteka can concentrate on store management; and 2) UNFI is no longer regularly running out of stock for non-Whole Foods customers.

L3 Compensation & Benefits resubmitted and accepted. It now clarifies that neither the GM nor the staff receives pension benefits.

Ends Indicators: Much appreciation was expressed for MH. Board noted that we have extremely low staff turnover—perhaps we should publicize that.

Board Business:

Recognition of Rachel Hardwick. The board thanked RH for her six years of service to the Co-op, including Board presidency.

Membership and Community Affairs update:

Review of member-owner meeting in October: Committee is considering having shorter

member-owner meetings, with less business reporting and more fun stuff like maybe a workshop. There could be more frequent events that are engaging and fun.

Leandra Nichola offered the opportunity for Board members to come to Kokua food distribution nights (food distributed to families in need). They would be good outreach opportunities. SK will look into this. [AI]

Nominations/Elections: Voting closes Monday. Member concerns about privacy during vote counting will be addressed by having TP Board of Elections representative Brian Ernst monitor vote counting. We discussed how the process went. Electronic voting is a big improvement. The order of listing of candidate names on the electronic ballots is random, which is good for assuring that candidates do not get inappropriate advantage due to placement of name on ballot. Possibilities for future elections include 1) runoff balloting, and 2) having immediate feedback if there's a problem with the vote being cast, due to member-owner number mismatch, duplicate vote, etc. In future, Board will try to set up elections earlier (possibly July), have the member-owner meeting mid-September which would coincide with the national election season, and have the new Board members elected before the first Board meeting in December.

New Board member training: Slated for early December. DC will lead [AI], but everyone else should try to come as well, seeing how well it worked last year when most of us attended.

Board retreat planning: Board retreat is scheduled for Saturday 1/11. Planning committee is SK, SL, MH, Martha Whitman (MW), DC.

Patronage rebates. Board voted to continue retaining patronage rebates for investment in store operations and community services.

Policy Register section on governance: Proposed changes to Section G were accepted.

Mid-Atlantic Food Cooperatives Alliance meeting update: Common Market expressed strong interest in matching whatever TPSS does to support the newly forming food coop in DC Ward 8. SC will contact them [AI].

Refill Station update: TPSS will support this new cooperative venture, "Fulfillery," by purchasing goods using its wholesale license and then selling them at cost to Fulfillery.

Next Board Meeting: Thursday December 19, 6:30pm-9pm.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:45pm.

Committee Assignments:

Policy Committee – SC (chair), AF.

Nominations/Elections – SL (chair), DC.

Personnel – DC (chair), RH, KS.

Membership Committee – FF (chair), DC, SK.

Finance and Audit Committee – AF (chair), DC, SC.

Junction Committee – FF (co-chair), RH (co-chair), SK, KS.

Expansion Committee – AF, SL, SC.

Policy Governance Reflection Committee - FF, AF, SL, Mary Rooker (former board member).

Board Development Committee – DC (chair), AF.

Future of Food Committee – SL, SC.

Board Retreat Planning – SK, SL, MH, MW, DC.

Term 2018-2019 Meeting Attendance:

	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Cho	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Ex	*	*	*	*
Curran	*	Ex	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Ex	*
Eddy	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Ex	Ex	Ex	Ex	Ex
Feinstein	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Ex	*	*	*
Frank	*	Ex	*	Ex	*	Ex	Ex	*	*	*	*	*
Hardwick	*	*	*	*	Ex	*	*	*	Ex	Ex	*	*
Kamara	*	*	*	Ex	*	*	*	Ex	*	*	*	*
Lowen	*	*	*	Ex	*	*	*	Ex	*	*	*	*
Stitt	*	Ex	*	*	Ex	*	*	*	Ex	Ex	Ex	Ex

(ex=excused)

Board Terms:

Board Representative	Term:	Term Ends:
Cho	3 years	2019
Curran	3 years	2020
Eddy	3 years	2021
Feinstein	3 years	2019
Frank	3 years (consecutive term)	2020
Hardwick	3 years (consecutive term)	2019
Kamara	3 years	2021
Lowen	3 years	2020
Stitt	3 years	2021