

TPSS Board of Representatives Meeting

Open Session (public part of meeting)¹ Minutes

Date/Location/Time: September 17, 2020 meeting (held remotely, on-line) 6:30 pm
Board present: Diane Curran (DC), Fred Feinstein (FF), Adam Frank (AF), Susan Cho (SC), Bob Gibson (BG), Katea Stitt (KS), Katherine Tsantiris (KT)
Board absent: Susanne Lowen (SL)
Staff present: Mike Houston (MH), General Manager (GM)
Members and Attendees present: Elizabeth Teuwen (ET), Mark Phillips (MP), auditor for Aronson
Minutes submitted by: Solveig Mortensen (SM), Board Administrator
Meeting held by zoom and telephone connection.

Board ACTION:

- The Board approved the August 20, 2020 open session Board meeting minutes.
- The Board table the Policy Committee vote on revisions to L-2 policy.

Open Member Forum: DC introduced Elizabeth Teuwen (ET) and shared that ET is interested in running for the Board. ET described how she previously worked as an attorney but left to become a chef and then also became involved with volunteer opportunities, such as with Crossroads. ET summarized that her work slowed down with the pandemic, and she is looking for other ways to be involved in food and wellbeing issues.

The Board reviewed the topical calendar and confirmed that the topical calendar item, GM Compensation and Policy Committee discussion on Policy L-2 were tabled until October.

DC relayed that the Board received a member concern by email, where the member referenced the bright Takoma Park street lights, compared them to the lights in the Co-op, and suggested the Co-op address it. MH shared he received the same email and plans to respond and include DC.

DC thanked the GM for creating an option for people shopping online where they can now request add-on items that are not shown and if the items are available, they are included and added onto the total charged to the customer.

MH reflected on how the Co-op's online shopping has developed and improved; he noted that the Co-op recently received their 10,000th online order.

¹ Monthly Co-op Board meetings have open and closed portions. Members are welcome at the open portion of meetings. The closed part of Board meetings is reserved for discussion of finances, personnel, and legal issues.

GM Report: MH shared that now being past the onset of the pandemic, he has been able to withdraw a bit from the unusually close oversight of daily operations that was required in the early months and resume networking opportunities, and participating in meetings, and generally spending time on more business development issues. MH reported attending virtual marketing expos, where vendors present new products online and later follow up by sending out their sample products to co-ops/stores. MH observed that other organizations and local governmental groups are also undergoing a similar return to and ramping up of their regular activities.

Board Business:

Board Governance: The board briefly discussed a proposal by SL for a future discussion about the role of the Board in ensuring the Co-op's "well-being, perpetuity and financial success." The Board agreed to schedule a separate Board meeting to fully review her proposal.

Committee Updates:

Membership Committee Affairs Committee (MCAC): FF stated that the semiannual Member-Owners meeting will be held 2pm-3pm on Saturday the 17th of October. FF shared how at the most recent membership meeting, committee members and participants discussed how they will publicize the meeting details in the next Board newsletter: in an email to all members, on the Co-op's website as a calendar item, and as a short blurb.

FF reported that the MCAC recently prepared articles for a bulletin-newsletter that was distributed by the Co-op. The bulletin-newsletter also included content by the Co-op staff. FF reported that the Co-op management hopes to resume providing a regular, monthly newsletter. And that MCAC will discuss with management how/when to contribute.

Nominations Committee: KS offered to put into announcement rotation on WPFW radio, an abridged version of the 2020 board nominations solicitation.

Policy Committee: discussion/vote on L2 revision: This item was tabled.

Decision on Electronic Meeting platform: KT updated the Board that the Board will be using Zoom Pro for the October Member-Owners meeting. KT explained that each Board committee has reported mixed experiences and success with different platforms, so those evaluating the various remote meeting platforms have not made a decision yet.

SC recommended that the Board committees experiment with the free, open source platform Jitsi and noted that she included a link in the chat with reasons why that platform would be preferable. DC also encouraged Board committees to try the Jitsi platform in their next meetings.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20pm

Board Representatives' Committee Memberships:

Membership and Community Affairs Committee: FF, BG, SL, DC (FF Chair)

Audit and Finance Committee: AF, SC, BG, KT (AF Chair)

Personnel Committee: DC, KS (DC Chair)

Policy Committee: SC, AF, KT (SC Chair)

Nominations Committee: BG, FF, SL (BG Chair)

Junction Committee: FF, KS (FF Chair)

Expansion Committee: AF, SC, SL (AF Chair)

Board Development Committee: DC, AF (chair position shared)

Term 2019-2020 Meeting Attendance:

	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.
Cho	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Curran	*	Ex	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Feinstein	*	*	Ex	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Frank	Ex	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Gibson	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Kamara	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Re	Re
Lowen	*	*	Ex	*	*	*	*	*	*	Ex
Stitt	*	Ex	Ex	*	Ex	*	Ex	Ex	Ex	*
Tsantiris	Ex	*	Ex	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

(Ex=excused)

(Re=Resigned)

Board Terms:

Board Representative	Term:	Term Ends:
Cho	3 years (consecutive term)	2022
Curran	3 years	2020
Feinstein	3 years (consecutive term)	2022
Frank	3 years (consecutive term)	2020
Gibson	2 years	2021
Lowen	3 years	2020
Stitt	3 years	2021
Tsantiris	3 years	2022

Currently vacant	3 years	2021
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