

TPSS Board of Representatives Meeting

February 24, 2022

Open Session Minutes

Board present: Bob Gibson (BG), Diane Curran (DC), Elizabeth Teuwen (ET), Adam Frank (AF), Susan Cho (SC), Esteban de Dobrzynski (ED), Fred Feinstein (FF), Kathy Tsantiris (KT)
Board members absent: Katea Stitt (KS)
Staff present: Mike Houston (MH), General Manager (GM)
Minutes submitted by: Solveig Mortensen (SM), Board Administrator

Meeting held by zoom and called to order at 6:30 pm

Board ACTION:

- The Board approved the January 27, 2022 Open Session Board meeting minutes as revised.
- The Board approved the monitoring report for policy L-7, Communication and Counsel to the Board, as submitted by the GM.

Review outstanding action items and topical calendar: ET is working on a new version of the topical calendar. BG recommended Board members consider participating in the following Columinate training series: Explorations in Policy governance (March 14th, 21st, and 28th). BG signed up for a quarterly Columinate Board President's round table, which begins in April.

BG also suggested Board members participate in the annual summer Consumer Cooperative Management Association (CCMA) meeting, which will occur in South Dakota (6/9/22-6/11/22), both in person and virtually.

Open Member Forum: The Board noted that Montgomery County changed their mask mandates on February 22nd; however, the Co-op continues to maintain an in-store mask policy. MH stated that COVID-19 cases are not yet sufficiently low enough to alter the Co-op's policy. In response to the Board's inquiry, MH shared that not all Co-op employees are vaccinated, but unvaccinated employees have a weekly testing requirement.

GM Report: MH reported that the Co-op is planning for an Earth Day event and confirmed that negotiations with the Co-op's union are underway. Two ideas for reducing harmful packaging, which MH shared from the recent One Step Closer campaign by the Climate Collaborative, were not selling any products in plastic bottles smaller than a liter and not putting single use plastics on the end caps (the items featured on sale at the ends of each aisle). MH explained that end caps are premium store space and the goods displayed there are selected by NCG, not the Co-op staff.

Policy L-7, Communication and Counsel to the Board: MH noted that this year's monitoring report for policy L-7 was similar to last year's report. Board members did not present questions and approved the policy.

Committee Updates: BG suggested that the related committees could address the policy register, review the bylaws, and focus on the matter of member engagement after the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion training. BG confirmed that ED would be joining the Expansion Committee.

Membership and Community Affairs Committee (MCAC): FF shared that the MCAC discussed many ideas for the Spring Member-owners meeting; and proposed that the meeting occur on Sunday, May 22nd, outside, with a virtual fallback location (online via zoom). The Board further discussed the format and goals for the Spring Member-owners meeting, including providing the Board officer and GM reports in written format, trying to hold the meeting in the sheltered outdoor area next to the Takoma Park fire station, and focusing the discussion on potentials for the expansion. The MCAC planned to flesh out a proposal and revisit the topic at the March Board meeting.

The Board also discussed a plan for Board members to engage with people at the Co-op's upcoming Earth Day event.

Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee (DEIC), Reflections Kick-off and Training: The GM and many of the Co-op Board and staff have now participated in two Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) training sessions. SC presented the idea of opening up a Co-op Facebook forum for members to have conversations about personal experiences in our culture in a less anonymous way. The Board suggested that after completing DEI training and receiving feedback from the trainers, the Co-op might support structured discussions (posting articles/presenting an open-ended question) through this forum.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm

Board Representatives' Committee Memberships:

Membership and Community Affairs Committee: (FF Chair) FF, DC, KT, ET, ED

Finance and Audit Committee: (AF Chair) AF, SC, BG, KT, ET (DC, as ex-officios)

Personnel Committee: (BG Chair) DC, KS

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

Nominations Committee: (BG Chair) , AF, DC

Junction Committee: (FF Chair) FF, DC, BG, KS, ET, ED

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion KS (Chair), SC, BG, AF, KT

Expansion Committee: (AF Chair) AF, SC, BG, ED

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

Term 2021-2022 Meeting Attendance:

Board member	Dec. 2021	Jan. 2022	Feb. 2022
Cho	*		*
Curran	*	*	*
de Dobrzynski	*	*	*
Feinstein	*	*	*
Frank	*	*	*
Gibson	*	*	*
Stitt	*	ex	ex
Teuwen	*	*	*
Tsantiris	*	ex	*