

Minutes of Lakewinds Natural Foods Board of Directors' Meeting January 31st, 2011

John DePaolis, President
Caroline Hermes, Vice President
Joe Wagner, Treasurer
Doug Engen, Secretary
Fred Ladner

Cheryl Ahlcrona
Karen Coune
Taiha Wagner
Masha Yevzelman
GM Dale Woodbeck

Board President called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Consent Agenda:

The consent agenda included the minutes of the meeting of November 22nd, the list of applicants from Dec/Jan for co-op membership (174), the listing of repurchased memberships (15, mostly Anoka), and the General Manager's monthly report.

John made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda which was seconded by Joe and passed unanimously.

Transfer of Memberships:

A membership can be transferred to a member of the household if the original member is deceased or in the case of a divorce. We reviewed and approved recent transfers and agreed to include membership transfers in the monthly consent agenda from information provided prior to the meeting.

Dale noted that they are undergoing a complete review of membership documentation to allow transition to digital files.

General Manager's update:

Dale noted that he has postponed the office improvements until they have a clearer view of all alternatives for office space.

Board Development and Member Engagement:

Taiha, Karen and Cheryl recently attended the CBLD (Coop Board Leadership Development) seminar for board members provided by CDS (Coop Development Services). They reported that this was very useful orientation and a great opportunity to interact with other board members from the region which included 60 members from coops in 5 states. Our topic of member linkage/engagement was also a key topic at the meeting. Most of the coops report relatively low member participation in voting or other member activities. Difficult to determine if this is because they are pleased with the status of the coop or are too involved in daily activities to expand their involvement beyond normal shopping. We would like to promote a higher sense of community and active coop participation. Some ideas were presented from the meeting and other

sources and we will continue to pursue activities to improve engagement. Some board members should join the focus groups planned by marketing. Dale will followup with Katherine. Board members interested in attending board meetings of other coops will followup with John.

Governance Policy Review

Caroline led discussions on governance policies ER 7–11 regarding the role of the Board and the responsibilities of the General Manager. A number of grammatical changes were approved.

Caroline has posted the Governance Policies and other information on Google Documents where they can be accessed and reviewed by Board members. She provided log–on information and passwords.

Lakewinds Strategy – Vision and Mission:

The coop progress in the last couple years has followed very closely our strategy and objectives developed by the board 2 years ago. Member engagement, discussed above, and knowing what new initiatives our members would like to see are two areas we continue to work on. John will review the recent work Dale has been doing with the operational team and develop a plan whereby the board could work with the outside consultant to develop a meaningful half day working session involving these topics.

Followup:

At our next meeting Dale will present background information on the various organizations that support the food coops in the US and our region.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15.