

Minutes of Lakewinds Natural Foods Board of Director's Meeting September 27th, 2010

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

Cheryl Ahlcrona
Karen Coune
Taiha Wagner
Masha Yevzelman
GM Dale Woodbeck (*)

(*) Absent

All board members present. Dale was represented by John Case and Katherine Roseth.

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

Welcome:

John welcomed the 4 new board members elected at the annual meeting on September 22nd (Cheryl, Karen, Taiha, and Masha). All of the board made quick background presentations. The new Board orientation session will be discussed later.

Consent Agenda:

The consent agenda included the minutes of the meeting of August 23rd, the list of applicants for co-op membership, the listing of repurchased memberships, and the General Managers monthly report.

After a quick discussion for the new board members on the process for member approval and for refund of member shares, Joe made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda, which was seconded by Doug and passed unanimously.

Dale will present information on inactive members at a future meeting.

New memberships included 56 new members signing up at the Chanhassen location and 63 signing up at the Minnetonka location. At over 100 per month, we continue to show good membership growth. Most of the 21 members requesting membership refund are from Anoka or are members moving away from the area.

Board Development:

Caroline led discussions on several board development areas:

The new board orientation session was set for Oct 7th. This will cover the Policy Governance Process, a financial overview from the Treasurer, and other topics about the responsibilities of board members.

All Board members updated the short Bio that is included in the Board material on the Lakewinds' Website.

Caroline presented the summary of the board self-evaluation submitted by the prior year board members. Evaluation results were generally positive and showed improvement over the prior year. We discussed especially those areas where we want to show more improvement. One of the areas was to obtain more detail on the Coop budget allocated to the board to assure that we manage it properly and are aware of areas where we can leverage these funds to better advantage for long term coop growth.

The policy review this month was on the Role of the President. She will make changes regarding the Board Budget.

John collected the signed code of conduct declarations from each of the board members.

Operations Update:

John Case commented on key areas of operations this month:

They continue to work with banks and the North Country Coop Development Fund for new loan commitments. Discussions are going well.

Good financial results for the month including continued sales growth and stable margins.

He presented initial plans for updating and better use of the administrative office space. Budgets are not complete, but we discussed the general direction and looked at the existing office space following the meeting. This capital expenditure will require Board approval when finalized.

Katherine provided a quick update on some of the events Lakewinds is sponsoring in the next month. Lakewinds is one of the main sponsors of the Healthy Food Summit later this week at the University and the Arboretum. And Lakewinds presents author John Gray at an event hosting more than 1,000 participants on Oct 13th. October is membership appreciation month and the team continues work on events during the month.

Board Officers and Standing Committees:

John asked that those who are interested in serving as an officer for the coming year contact him to apply. At the next meeting he will present a slate of officers for full board approval. Also at the next meeting interest in the standing committees will be requested and board members allocated to these committees.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15.