

YELM COOPERATIVE
Board Meeting Minutes
 Rosemont Retirement Center
 March 20, 2013

Next meeting is Thursday, April 11 at 6:00 pm at Rosemont Retirement Center

Members present: Bill Wyman, president; Beverly Wright, vice president; Marilyn Reardon, secretary; Tom Dewell, treasurer; Terry Kaminski, director; Aaron Rodriguez, director

Staff present: Barnaby Rintz, YFC general manager

Guests: none

Meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm by Bill Wyman.

Open session

No guests.

Meeting minutes

February 14, 2013 Board minutes were approved.

March 10, 2013 special meeting minutes were approved.

Store manager report – Barnaby

- Store sales have overall increased since the start of the year.
- Barnaby is conducting staff performance evaluations.
- Inventory will be done this Sunday with the new Honeywell hand-held inventory tool. This will substantially speed up the inventory process. Knowing inventory levels is key and will be conducted monthly, then quarterly.
- 68 members paid toward membership in February; 23 made payments in March so far. There were 16 new members in February; 11 new members so far in March. There are 282 Y-T-D annual fees paid. There are a total of 48 new members Y-T-D, approx. 16 per month.
- There was a gain of 3 WM and a loss of 6 WM's. Almost all have left because of being hired into other jobs or relocating out of the area. Adding new WM's is a high priority at this time.
- Barnaby presented an outline of equipment needs. Recently, a compressor went out in a freezer. When repaired, the other compressors will be checked.
- Anne's evaluation will be done after the fundraiser.
- All wine fundraiser event tickets go through the POS. Phone orders are OK and will be taken only by paid staff.
- Barnaby submitted a YFC product analysis. Among other items was the desire for increasing the bread line. However, it is difficult to find a WM who is consistently available to do pick up in Olympia. The store currently carries 2700 different products; Barnaby would like to see this increased by 500-700 over the next 6 months and another 500 by the end of the year. Because there are much larger grocery stores within a 1.5 mile radius of the store, having a diversity of products makes sense.
- Non GMO products are now requisite for new product introduction. Barnaby's plan is to make the YFC totally GMO free within a year.
- Local products are a focus but there are many challenges to making this happen. However, with combined efforts with the YC, this should be able to be accomplished.
- Bakery deliveries 3 times per week are being worked on.
- Barnaby submitted a Long Term Plan Evaluation. Among the many items covered are: one key to success is a long term marketing plan. Other key aspects are adding specific equipment, but the potential electrical overload is an issue. We need to expand our customer base beyond our current clientele. Vendor alternatives to UNFI, despite extensive research effort, has not been fruitful. A commercial kitchen in the store is key for the long term success of the store.

Farmers Market - Bill

- There are 3 good candidates for the position of market manager. Interviews will be held the week of March 25 by Bill, Tom and Tammy.
- The Nisqually Springs Farm (Schorno property) is the best location. They have gained a temporary use permit from Thurston County to allow the front of the property to be used. If for any reason the FM is not allowed in the front of the property, we will move to the rear area.

Educational Garden - Tom

- To begin the garden, Phoenix Rising School has offered to partner with us and allow the garden on their property. This is outside city limits, so there is more flexibility. Lynda Smith will continue contact with Aaron.
- In the future we will expand to a larger site nearer to town.

YC funds

- We need to identify criteria for program managers to request funds from the YC fund. The form needs to include areas such as “local component” and “money multiplier”, among others.
- Beverly will draft the policy, procedure and form for accessing YC funds based on the email Tom sent.

New business

- City of Yelm is renovating the Yelm City Park. A building is being planned to house a commercial kitchen. There will be outdoor stalls, a stage and water features.
- A motion was made and passed for joining the Chamber of Commerce. It costs \$160 to join. Bill should speak to the Chamber about the mission and vision of the YC and for people to join the YC. The store should hold a business after hours event.

Membership

- There was lengthy discussion regarding the membership level of original members. We've listened to feedback from these members about their feeling that the Co-op is obligated to honor the statement that theirs was a one-time membership fee.
- Based on tonight's discussion, Tom will draft a letter to go to original members and send out for Board review and comment.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 pm.

Submitted by Marilyn Reardon, secretary

Bill Wyman, president

Beverly Wright, vice president