

Item H2 for May 21, 2014
Peoples Food Co Op Annual Meeting
April 29, 2014 at 6:30pm

Attendance: Gaia Kile (president), Rebecca Kanner (vice-president), Matthew Graff (treasurer), Leah Hagamen, Vanessa Marr, Keegan Rodgers (secretary), Ann Sprunger

Patti Smith, Board Administrator, recording minutes
Lesley Perkins, General Manager

Approximately 70 members were in attendance

Welcome: Yousef Rabhi spoke on the importance of local communities in our current and future economy.

Welcome: Rebecca welcomed our member-owners and guests. Board members introduced themselves.

President's Report: Gaia thanked our member-owners, board members, staff and GM. He went over some of the highlights in his report, specifically the passing of the Ends policy. He encouraged our attendees to bring other people into the co-op and introduce them to us.

GM's Report: Lesley praised the staff and thanked everyone for helping her during her first year. She explained the co-op's principles and vision for the future. She also talked about the new point-of-sales system installation.

Treasurer's Report: Matthew highlighted his report, stressing that there will not be a rebate for 2013. He briefly explained the financial situation of 2013, indicating that we raised wages and also invested in our staff in other ways. In response to a question, Matthew said that the figure showing that 63% of our sales are to members is fairly typical and has been consistent over the past few years.

Questions & Answers: Rebecca addressed the questions brought up by members, which were as follows:

- Plant berry bushes in front of the store
- Employment comments: initiate living wages, hire more older folks, end at-will employment
- Turn off the music so people will talk to each other instead
- Stop the satellite radio in the store

Lesley explained that it is against the law to play our own music in the store. Music was getting played too loudly and was sometimes offensive. To avoid fines for playing the music, we had to figure out how to continue having music in the store. We chose Sirius

satellite radio because it is the only one to pay money to the musicians and music industry.

- Discussion about GMO (some wanted to increase education on the matter, some wanted them out of the co-op). The issue is complex and includes issues such as do we want local food or organic food or non-GMO food shipped from overseas. Rebecca opened up the matter for discussion

Discussion: people want good food regardless of where it is from, would like the food to be labeled with sources of origin (especially in the café), GMOs are not really understood and we should be cautious, several people spoke to indicate that there should not be GMOs in the store, while GMOs are bad there should also be freedom of choice, more education on the subject is needed.

- Eliminate plastic bags
- Grab'n'Go items that were removed from EBT

Lesley explained that when we stopped using the plastic bags, we got all sorts of complaints from shoppers. The EBT law is not terribly clear but we were not using it properly; therefore, certain items had to be removed from being EBT eligible.

Ken King Life as Art Award: Linda Diane Feldt spoke about the Ken King Life as Art Award, its history and its namesake. Cathy King presented the Ken King Life as Art Award to Annie Elder and Paul Bantle from the Community Farm of Ann Arbor.

Election Results: Rebecca announced the results of the election which were as follows:

Gaia Kile – 591 votes
Vanessa Marr – 687 votes
Paris Morse – 298 votes

Tribute to Phil Dinehart: Kevin Sharp spoke in memory of and honor of Phil Dinehart, our cheese monger, who passed away recently. 123 trees will be planted on his behalf through the Arbor Foundation.

Presentations: Garrett Potter, staff member of the co-op, facilitated the presentations. Chris Good shared his “Buy Local” music video. Malik Yakini, founder and Executive Director of the Detroit Black Community Food Security Network, spoke about his organization and their plans for the future, including opening a co-op by the end of 2015. Larry Horvath spoke about the Co-Op Elders. The University of Michigan percussion group Groove performed.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia F. Smith
Board Administrator