

People's Food Co-op
Annual Meeting Minutes – April 26, 2022

Location: Online

Introduction

The meeting began at 6:33pm. Jaime Magiera, Board President, presented the agenda and thanked everyone for joining the online meeting. Annual meetings are a requirement of Board and member-owners.

The Board members introduced themselves, followed by the Board candidates, the GM manager, and all other attendees.

Malik Yakini Guest Speaker

Board Director Ray Anderson introduced guest speaker Malik Yakini. Malik has a history with libraries, schooling around food growing and history, anti-capitalism, and ultimately the founding of the Detroit Black Community Food Security Network and being a leader of the Detroit People's Food Co-op.

Community investment in the local food economy is better and more sustainable than the charity model of a co-op, other organization, or community of people.

General Manager's Report

Angie Voiles, General Manager, talked about the state and future of operations at PFC.

2021 had continued financial and hiring challenges relating to COVID, echoing grocery stores and other businesses across the nation. Financials were audited this year, as is done every three years. Auditors declared a profit in 2021, however the extra income was not due to operations but rather from the infusion of COVID money from the government. Angie's idea of a viable operation involves reopening prepared foods, as it was one of the more profitable aspects of PFC. Ultimately, more people need to shop at PFC more frequently. PFC needs to ensure it is meeting their needs, encouraging them to return, and inviting new people.

President's Report

Jaime Magiera, the outgoing Board President, highlighted the work over the last two years of the PFC Board and the General Manager getting a financial plan in place, as guided by policy. The plan does include moving to a new space, as talked about in previous years.

Jaime spoke about the necessity of a strong PFC Board, and urged attendees to apply to be on the Board or join a committee.

Vice President's Report

Pat Zabawa, the Board Vice President, spoke about the importance and his appreciation of member participation, whether it's attending this Annual Meeting or popping into a regular Board meeting. He encouraged folks to join the Linkage Committee to continue efforts like Change for Community. \$40,000 has been raised in total over the last 2 years for Change for Community recipients.

Treasurer's Report

Ray Anderson, the outgoing Board Treasurer, presented on the financial position of PFC. PFC has reported a net loss every year since 2012, relying in part on loans and loan forgiveness to keep it going.

Member Survey

Michael Metzger, Board Director, presented the results of the member shopper survey. 884 shoppers completed the survey, 633 of which were members.

Election Results

Amanda McCreless was reelected to the Board. Susan Randall and Connor Levy have been elected to the Board.

Jaime Magiera and Ray Anderson are leaving the Board.

Candidate	Votes
Amanda McCreless	352
Susan Randall	341
Conner Levy	337
Abstentions	9
Total Ballots	385
Spoiled Ballots (not counted)	8

Question and Answer

Q: What is the rationale for moving the PFC storefront from its current location? Does the Coop need a larger footprint? Are they hoping to draw new/more customers from other areas of the

community? Has the Coop done any member surveys about how moving the store from its current location might effect its sales/revenue?

Angie responded first. Town halls were held in 2019 to discuss changing locations, the Board has discussed it for years, and discussions are not over. The physical location is old and inefficient. The buildings in which PFC is located were not built to be a grocery store and cafe. Items are stored downstairs and the buildings force employees to be inefficient.

Q: I heard someone say that a larger footprint would allow for additional local products. Are there other product lines that are not currently offered that you foresee adding in a larger building?

A: This would come from the produce section. It is currently a small section of the grocery. With greater space, more farms could have more products.

Q: Will the just released new history of the Coop be available in print for purchase?

A: The Board and GM are gauging interest in print purchase, since it is an expense.

Dedication

The Board dedicates this meeting to the memory of Linda Diane Feldt, who passed away this year. She was on the PFC Board and passionate about PFC for decades. Gaia Kile, a former Board Director, gave a speech to her memory.

The meeting was concluded at 8:38pm.