

Meeting Minutes for Weaver Street Market's Board of Directors

November 2016 Meeting

Monthly Board Meeting, WSM Admin Center, Hillsborough, NC on November 9, 2016, 6:00 pm to 9:30 pm

Directors present: Ruffin Slater (general manager), Alicia Altmueller (consumer owner), David Bright (consumer owner, secretary), Barbara Keith (consumer owner), Jon McDonald (chair, worker owner), Linda Stier (consumer owner), and Charles Traitor (worker owner).

Others attending: Andy Sachs (facilitator), Brenda Camp (notes), Hank Becker (consumer owner), Liz Evans (consumer owner), Amy Lorang (worker owner), and Margaret Misch (consumer owner).

1. Preliminaries

Owner Input: Worker owner Amy Lorang reported to the Board that the issue she raised at a previous meeting—workers were using the last four digits of their social security number as an access code for entrance to the Food House—was still in practice.

Consumer owner Hank Becker suggested that trauma surrounding the election might be lessened if the co-op did simple act, such as offering a special dessert, to remind people that WSM is “always a welcoming center of their community.”

Consumer owner Margaret Misch brought three items to the Board’s attention. She pointed out that although WSM stopped carrying Poland Springs water, the stores still carried S. Pellegrino products, which are also Nestle products. She expressed her objection to WSM continuing to offer Driscoll’s berries despite a boycott. She expressed dissatisfaction with the lack of feedback for her request that the stores carry #6 coffee filters. The GM suggested to Misch that there was agreement on direction but maybe there wasn’t alignment with the pace. He also said he would respond to the product question.

The Chair thanked all three owners and explained the Board’s process for responding to owner feedback.

Agenda: There were no changes to the agenda.

Minutes: The minutes from the October meeting were approved.

Decision: The Board approved the October minutes.

2. Election Committee Reports

Linda Stier, Committee Chair, for the Elections Committee presented three documents from the committee to the Board: 2016 Elections Report, 2016 Elections Committee Monitoring Report, and an annotated 2016 Elections Procedures Manual. Stier pointed out the specific Board actions identified in the report, which included determine an honorarium for the committee members and continuing to increase owner participation by creating a more informed/knowledgeable ownership and creating more leadership opportunities for candidates who do not win.

Decision: The Board accepted the Elections Committee Monitory Report for the 2016 Elections.

3. Board Business

Share Transition Plan

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The General Manager reported that research on the share transition plan revealed questions that needed to be addressed before moving the plan forward. He suggested that a plan should be ready for review at the December meeting.

Q1 2017 Budget Update

Alicia Altmueller presented the first quarter budget report.

4. GM Reports**November GM Report**

The General Manager answered questions on his monthly GM reports. Highlights from the report include:

- **Sales Growth:** We achieved 6% sales growth for the quarter ending in September. Carrboro sales were up 6%; Southern Village sales were up 8%; and Hillsborough sales were up 6%. Sales in October were even better: up 11% overall with Carrboro up 12%, Southern Village up 9% and Hillsborough up 11%. Overall we had three of the four busiest weeks ever in October, and each store had record sales at least one week during the month.
- **Co-op relationship management tool:** This is a joint project with National Co-op Grocers Assn. to develop a next-generation data management and owner communication tool for co-ops. We are working on the development now and will start testing in 2017.
- **Southern Village Expansion:** The Southern Village expansion will happen Jan-Mar 2017. Our contractor is McDonald York and our former landlord Bryan Properties is managing the construction for us. This is the project that was presented to the Board in a monitoring report in August.

The GM noted that all the stores had record sales, and he attributed half of the increase to the appreciation coupons that come with the dividend reports. When asked about possible issues with Wegman's coming to Chapel Hill, the GM noted that Wegman's would draw from a larger, more regional area and would more likely effect mid-size stores and least likely to impact stores like the Carrboro store and Trader Joe's.

Monitoring Report: Policy B1 – Financial Condition and Activities

The General Manager answered questions on "Monitoring Report: Policy B1 – Financial Condition and Activities."

Decision: The Board accepted Monitoring Report Policy B1 – Financial Condition and Activities.

Monitoring Report: Policy B8 – Board Logistical Support

The General Manager answered questions on "Monitoring Report: Policy B8 – Board Logistical Support." The GM agreed to a suggestion that the next report be treated as a direct inspection report based on a Board survey.

Decision: The Board accepted Monitoring Report Policy B8 – Board Logistical Support.

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5. Closings

- Decisions and Tasks
- Next Month's Agenda:

6. Executive Session