

Fairbanks Co-op Market and Deli



Annual Owner Meeting Minutes

Apr 23rd, 2022 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm

1. Welcome and Review Meeting Guidelines

2. Business Meeting

Number of members attending the meeting : 44

a. Call to Order: Meeting started at 4:02 pm

Welcome to the Fairbanks Community Cooperative Market Owner Meeting

b. Approve Agenda

c. Approve 2021 Meeting Minutes

3. Board Elections Results and Introductions

a. 2022 Co-op Market Brocery & Deli Board Elections

Total Eligible Voters: 3,573

Total Ballots Cast: 591

Percent of Eligible: 16.4%

Election of Directors:

Hilary Shook: 525 votes (90.4%)

Art Gelvin: 515 votes (88.6%)

Briana Walters: 513 votes (88.3%)

Brian Kassof: 501 votes (86.2%)

Total Valid Votes: 581 **Unexercised Votes:** 10 **Total Votes:** 591

b. Confirmation of Director

Patrice Lee: 553 votes (100%)

Total Valid Votes: 552 Unexercised Votes: 38 Total Votes: 591

4. Board Chair's Report

Hilary Shook, Board Chair

- 100 people have registered to be a part of the owner meeting, 16% is the highest number of votes that have been received, shows that our owners are active with our store.
- The board work was more operational in nature during the last few years due to changes in management. We are working towards realigning our work to become more strategic strategic in nature.
- Welcome Amber Quesenberry as our new GM, who is working through a GM training with Columinate and NCG to learn how to work best to manage the store.
- Welcome Briana Walters to the board, the board will be holding a board retreat where we will work with our Columinate consultant to look at how to develop the board and to work with our new GM.

5. Special Guest

Samantha Kirstein, Community Development Director, Fairbanks Community Food Bank

- Introduction of Sam's background with the Fairbanks Food Bank and will talk about Hunger Solutions and not so much on hunger advocacy. I'm going to tell you my experiences and local community Hunger Solutions and I truly believe that hunger hurts our community and every community. The talk will focus on the bigger picture
- Nearly 14% of the global food supply is lost post harvest, which occurs in storage or during transit, before it gets to be sold as retail. There's also about 17% loss of food and retail and consumer and consumer level. The waste comes from grocery stores, restaurants and in in consumer homes of course now add in the big picture.

- China's COVID cases are now soaring to record highs and the Chinese authorities have responded with unprecedented lockdowns for guests. As a result nearly 400 million people across 45 cities in China represent 40% or \$7.2 trillion of annual gross domestic product for the world's second largest economy.
- There is a looming fertilizer crisis in the United States and is about to get even worse. The cost of fertilizer is skyrocketing, and shipping rules are causing railroad mandated shipping reductions. These new regulations by Union Pacific are jeopardizing farmers harvest and increasing the cost of food for consumers.
- There's the new bird flu pandemic and Idaho has been confirmed as 27 US states to have cases and their commercial facilities.
- There are many other events that will have an impact on food supplies, to include the Russia/Ukrainian war, high fuel prices, a poor winter wheat harvest in China.
- These are significant issues and we really need to work together to keep our households and the tenant valley from going to bed hungry. That is the mission of the Fairbanks Community Food Bank, and your mission calls for health and sustainability by providing healthful foods and products and promoting local suppliers. We may all have our hands full with this task over the next period. of time.

6. Operations Update

Amber Quesenberry, GM

- Opening comments to thank the Board of Directors and the store team members for embracing the continuing changes that started before joining the store as the GM.
- The net income/gross profit is currently lower than 2020, given continuing supply chain issues and difficulties in hiring, we are hopeful that the total store sales in 2022 will be equal or higher than 2021.
- There is a new Community Access Discount where owners who use SNAP can apply for an additional 10% discount that applies to everything in the store. The pilot program is funded by Organically Grown Company with a \$5,000 grant. The program is for owners who are in good standing because it is felt that someone who has a stake in the store success will benefit.
- The store currently supports 58 in state vendors, and the majority of them are in the greater local area. Roughly \$163k/year has been put into supporting Alaska's businesses.
- There has been a change in leadership and working with the team to navigate the changes, we're working on improving employee retention and recruitment by offering starting wages of \$15/hr, paid time off for part-time and full-time employees as well as sick leave. We're working towards the goal of offering medical, dental and vision benefits.
- The operational focus this year will be working on a competitive analysis and price checks, focus on fresh in fresh departments, reduce waste, improving signage, reducing inventory, and improving the shopping experience by carrying the right products and strive to keep the shelves full.

7. Owner Comments & Door Prizes

Questions and comments were requested to be sent in early, none were submitted.

8. Meeting Adjourned at 5:12 pm