

# Open Harvest Board of Directors

## Approved Meeting Minutes

March 1, 2010, 5:33 – 6:53 p.m. at Irving Rec Center  
2010 Van Dorn Street

- Present** Margot Conrad, Kelsi Swanson, Jim Nelson, Keith Dubas, John Christensen, David Murphy, Gail Kendall, Sara Moshman, Carla McCullough, Jackie Barnhardt, Melissa Garcia, Flame Alligator, Maggie Pleskac, Ingrid Kirst, Dave Eckmann, Bob Hutkins, Jon Ferguson, Mary Jane Gruba, Mary Rachael
- Absent** Alisa Kushner, Miles Bryant
- 5:33 p.m.** Welcome to guests, staff and Board members, with introductions. Accept consensus items: March Agenda and February Meeting Minutes.  
GM Report: accounts payable to inventory (.65), debt to equity (2.23) (1.81 without long term liabilities), accounts payable (\$142,991.) and inventory (\$219,826.) shared. Sales update, since expansion and last year, distributed and discussed.
- 5:43 p.m.** L9: old customer service vs. new customer service desk discussed.  
L9.4.1: current members total 3,385  
L9.4.2: new members total 484, a 16.6% increase from last years total membership of 2,901  
L9.4.3: paid members discussed, lapsed members total 164 from February 2008 to February 2010, current POS system explained by Jim Nelson. Keith Dubas asked if there has been a decreased in membership since the increase in fee from \$25. to \$40. Jackie Barnhardt reported that there were several people who complained and did not renew, and it is too soon to see any trend since the fee increase. Jackie Barnhardt also spoke to the Board about the grant program available for financial help to members.  
L9.4.5: member equity total \$294,094.  
No concerns.
- 6:00 p.m.** Board Winter Half Day Retreat: Retreat scheduled for March 6<sup>th</sup> at Gere Library, from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. Ingrid Kirst, Carla McCullough and Keith Dubas organizing. Martha Gadbury leading the group.
- 6:05 p.m.** GM Search Committee Report: Committee met twice in February. Advertisements have gone out to the Lincoln Journal Star, the Omaha World Herald, and to online sites: Minneapolis Tribune website, Open Harvest website, and CGIN (Coop Grocer

Information Network) website. Margot Conrad is contacting each applicant acknowledging that their application has been received, and the review process will be in April.

- 6:09 p.m.** L4 and L10: Ingrid Kirst reported that changes will be addressed at the next Board meeting.
- 6:11 p.m.** Plan for Board – GM Relations Review: Keith Dubas will go over, and Maggie Pleskac and Gail Kendall will review, the Ms prior to sending it before the Board.
- 6:14 p.m.** By-Laws Committee: Committee established with John Christensen, Bob Hutkins, and Gail Kendall serving.
- 6:17 p.m.** Election Committee Report: Bob Hutkins, on behalf of the Board, presented the slate: Pepe' Fierro, Bob Vandenberg, Maggie Pleskac, Carla McCullough, Gail Kendall, Bob Hutkins, Jill Wertz, Dave March and Sara Moshman. Election will be held the last two weeks in April. Confirmations, bios, and photos will be available by the next Board meeting.
- 6:32 p.m.** NCGA Conference: Kelsi Swanson and Jim Nelson attended. Kelsi Swanson reported on additional sales promotions, coop consumer website and expanding membership to NCGA to smaller and start up coops. Jim reported that the additional two week sale promoted sales in perishables, that Central Corridor coops are doing better than ones in the East and the West, that coops going through expansions are doing well, that there are many coops planning expansions, and the availability of organic in a variety of stores and the differences of coops to those other venues were topics discussed at the conference.
- 6:40 p.m.** Members' Comments: No member comments.
- 6:41 p.m.** John Christensen commented on Board time spent on store reporting to the Board and questioned if there was ever time set aside for employees to speak to/with the Board, he also made suggestions for encouraging non-members to join. Options and opinions discussed.
- 6:53 p.m.** Adjourn

Respectfully Submitted,  
Mary Rachael

**Next Meeting:** April 5, 2010 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Irving Rec Center.