

Hudson Grocery Cooperative  
July 25, 2012  
Board Meeting

Present: Bridget O'Meara, Amber Erickson, Suzanne Hambleton, Bess Hambleton

Called to Order.

Old Business

1. Approval of business cards  
Suzanne presented cards for approval, Bess so moved, Bridget seconded.  
Unanimous approval.
2. Donation/discounted QuickBooks  
Bridget has no further solid information, although thinks we won't get this w/out nonprofit status, so probably will just have to buy the software.
3. Email list serve – tabled for next meeting.
4. Corporate seal  
Suzanne looked into corporate seal. This just has to have corporation name and date of incorporation. May be available at lost cost / free from VistaPrint or similar source, otherwise price ranges from \$23 - \$250. We may want to wait on this until we have our official name, which may not be Hudson Grocery Cooperative.

New Business

5. Create mission statement.  
Suzanne suggests, "Providing grocery staples and locally produced goods to the Hudson community." Discussion. Suggestions put forth:
  - Serving needs of the community.
  - Providing basic grocery needs.
  - Local/regional goods.
  - Essential and specialty grocery needs.
  - Fresh veg, milk, and bread, accessible by bike.
  - Support local farms and products that use sustainable practices.
  - Serving the needs of the local community.
  - We are committed to providing fresh groceries and quality household products with a focus on local and sustainably-produced goods that serve the needs of the community.No vote, temporarily tabled. Email vote will be taken later.
6. Approval of members:  
New household application from Claudia and Greg Noble, Brandy and Paul Dopkins, Sarah Atkins, Stephanie and Phil Anthony, and Carole Finneran  
Individual: Angela Scott, Christine English  
Bess moves to approve all members, Suzanne seconds. Unanimous approval.
7. Tax filing for 2011.  
Update: Suzanne will work with Kay Eichstad as previously approved.
8. Meeting with banks

We need to talk with business loan officers to find out what they need from us. Suzanne and Amber will visit banks and make inquiries.

8. Grant opportunity with Food Coop Initiative

Matching funds grant of up to \$10,000 available, with application deadline of August 10<sup>th</sup>. They also offer start-up grant for co-ops a little farther along in the process, which we may look at doing in a few months if appropriate.

Bridget will look at putting together grant application, with possible assistance from Diane Gabriel.

9. Invitations from River Market

- Co-cycle meet-and-greet Monday 7/30 5pm-8pm. Suzanne plans to attend. Amber also will attend.

- River Market board meeting Tuesday, 8/28 at 6:30pm. This is their year-end meeting. All available board members should attend.

#### Board Reports

10. President

Working on business plan.

11. Vice President

No report.

12. Treasurer

No report. Suzanne notes we need to create a reimbursement form.

13. Secretary.

No report.

#### Committee Reports

14. Marketing Committee

Meeting was July 11<sup>th</sup> and was well-attended. Committee members Gretchen and Brandy will meet on Friday to produce application folders and flyers for distribution on bulletin boards and at community events.

Idea of membership drive in September, maybe ice cream social, maybe with live music if we can rent Prospect Park.

Social media looks good. Blog schedule has been established, with Taren and Heather as editors. Bess and Alex are posting updates to Facebook. Suzanne posting monthly email updates, which will be available on the blog.

Next meeting Aug 8<sup>th</sup>.

15. Fundraising Committee

Grant application already discussed.

Discussion of feasibility study. Bridget knows someone who does this kind of work, and Suzanne will contact another group.

16. Vendor Relations

Meeting was July 19<sup>th</sup> and was well-attended. Sylvia Henke provided list of vendors, mostly larger vendors and for kosher products, which she used for her buying club. Damon Holter provided other information on state and local organizations of producers. Theresa Gibson will start database of potential vendors and organization contacts.

Some discussion looking forward concerning shelf space, determining what products to stock.

Bridget will put together a press release to send out to vendors and organizations, introducing the co-op and letting them know how to get in touch with us.

Next meeting scheduled for Aug 23<sup>rd</sup>.

#### Other Business

17. Next board meeting: Aug 22<sup>nd</sup>.

18. Business plan.

Discussion of key elements of business plan. Suzanne has done preliminary work in putting together guidelines and looking at co-op numbers. Interesting facts: Co-op shoppers are mostly women over 30 with college degrees. Over half the Hudson population has at least 1 year of college, so we are a well-educated community. Median household income is \$55,000. American households spend approximately 12% of their income annually on groceries at home. Other discussion of numbers relating to sales per square foot as a goal and measure of store success, with \$350 sales per square foot as baseline target.

Meeting adjourned.