



July Board Meeting Recap — submitted by Colin Fiske

At our July 5 meeting, the Board met some potential candidates for this fall's Board election, heard from a member with concerns about a radio station we support, and reviewed the first draft of the Co-op's next 5-year Strategic Plan.

Board Candidates

Before the official meeting started, the Board set aside half an hour to chat with any members interested in running in the upcoming Board election. Two seats will be up for election in the fall, and two more candidates came out to talk about their reasons for running for the Board and ask current Board members some questions about the job. If you're interested in running for the Board, you can still submit an application – the deadline is July 30.

KHSU Concerns

A Co-op member came to the Board meeting to express his concern that local public radio station KHSU has been heading in the wrong direction lately. He's not the only one – a Board member pointed out that the station's own advisory committee recently voted no-confidence in the General Manager in the wake of the widely publicized firing of a long-time KHSU employee. The Co-op has been a KHSU sponsor for many years, and the member requested that we consider withdrawing our financial underwriting support until the station addresses the community's concerns. The Board referred the issue to the July Member Action Committee meeting for further consideration.

Co-op Strategic Plan

Much of the meeting was occupied with discussion of the next 5-year Strategic Plan for the Co-op. We reviewed a draft plan written by General Manager Melanie Bettenhausen based on input from member surveys and a committee comprised of members, Board members, and staff. There was a sense of excitement about the plan from Board members and other committee members present—particularly about its focus areas, which include racial & social equity, environmental responsibility, the cooperative economy, a robust local food system, making the Co-op a community hub, and ensuring financial viability. But of course, we also identified a few areas that we thought could be improved. Melanie will be editing the plan based on the feedback she received and presenting it at the August Board meeting for approval. It will then be referred to the membership at the Annual Membership Meeting in October.

For More Information About the Board Meeting

As always, if you want more details about what happened at the Board meeting, the full minutes of the meeting will be included in next month's meeting packet. You can get a copy of the Board packet at the customer service desk (or by email if you request it) about a week before that meeting. We welcome members to join us at board meetings every first Thursday of the month at 6pm at the Ten Pin Building at 793 K Street in Arcata. We'd love to see you there, and hear your thoughts regarding our Co-op.