



**North Coast Co-op
Member Action Committee (MAC) Minutes
March 8, 2017 – Ten Pin Building, Arcata**

Members present: Cheri Strong (board member), Mary Ella Anderson (board member), Roger (member), Brenda Harper (member), Christine Brockway (employee), and Kala Eichamer (employee)

At 6:01pm Christine Brockway welcomed everyone, introductions were made and consensus process reviewed.

Member Comments: none.

Review: Consensus to approve February 8, 2017 meeting minutes as amended: Add Brenda Harper to attendees.

Chemical Sensitivity: Discussion included: Brenda has been communicating via email with Christie Rikki and with Cheri. She is still not clear as to what extent of an article should she be writing. Brenda now has the information she needs and will write the article to the best of her ability based on what Kristie said. Feelings about results? The focus of the survey was on petrol chemical ingredients, some non-petrol fragrances cause sensitivity reactions in certain people. Cheri comments that the focus on chemical ingredients was a starting point. Brenda notes that natural citrus scented products cause problems for those with scents sensitivity even though they are “natural”. The article could be in the April quarterly Co-op news if on time (submitted by March 11) or posted on the website and or Facebook otherwise. Brenda will email Zev in graphics the article when she has completed it.

Packaging: Discussion included:

- Christine investigated the display of paper, plastic and reusable bags in the bulk and produce departments of both the Eureka and Arcata stores. She found it fairly easy to find paper sacks. It was easier to find jars for sale in Arcata store, they are located right by the bulk liquids. The display is located farther away in Eureka. In the Arcata produce department paper bags easy to get at and the reusable bags available for purchase are prominently displayed. In Eureka, they are displayed on a kiosk that is farther away. A problem she noticed is that on the large cooler area that lines the wall there is no good place to put paper bags underneath because water would ruin them. A dispenser that sits up in that area could remedy this, currently shoppers have to turn around and go look for the paper bags. Paper bags are displayed as well as can be without adding extra hardware.
- Rethinking where the reusable produce bags are displayed in Eureka could be a good idea. Could a local producer make bags that would work for produce and or bulk items? Discussion of the cost of reusable bags vs convenience of disposable.
- Ways to reduce plastic bag use? Possibly make plastic bags less accessible, offer in fewer locations throughout produce. The green thin bags are more environmentally friendly. What about charging for plastic bags? Colin mentions that this has been discussed at EAC in the past, it is not an impossible idea. A reminder to shoppers in the newsletter that bringing reusable containers is encouraged and ok could get more people on board.
- Colin wonders if it would be possible to create a reusable, returnable container program similar to the type proposed for deli food for produce and or bulk items. Would it be possible to have a few sizes or shapes for this type of container? HSU has a reusable container system, maybe the Co-op could do something similar. Would the deli be able to sanitize all of the returned containers for the whole store? What are the standards? Does HSU have more than one size? Discussion of the future of plastic and landfill mining becoming commonplace business as fossil fuels become scarce.

- April agenda, discuss further the concept of charging for plastic bags. They are banned in check out, why not charge for plastic like other businesses are now doing. Or give a discount for bringing in used/reusable plastic bags. Discount for bringing in any type of reusable container? Discussion of the perceived psychological difference between negative and positive incentivizing. Christine notes that Eureka fabrics sells a selection of organic undyed/bleached fabrics that would be great for bag making, the cloth for the banana display is made from fabric purchased there.

Movie Night: Discussion included: Nicole is absent. Discussed at the board meeting, things are moving forward. Promotion will be important.

Online Account Access: Discussion included: Staff is working on this. Kala will email Cassie about update on the possibility of a member access on the website. April agenda item.

Agenda Items for next meeting: Review potential agenda items and prioritized as follows:

1. Incentives for reducing plastic bag use. Discuss bag credit being extended to reusable bags/containers and the possibility of charging for plastic bags.
2. Movie night update.
3. Online Access, report from Cassie Blom
4. Membership drive

Review Roles & Responsibilities: Consensus reached that Cheri Strong will be facilitator for the April meeting and Roger will be reporter for the April board meeting.

Next meeting: Wednesday April 12, 2017 from 6-7pm at the Ten Pin Building Mezzanine in Arcata.

Consensus reached to adjourn the meeting at 6:51 pm

<u>Committee Recommendations:</u> none this meeting.

Minutes by Kala Eichamer