



Nominating Committee November 9, 2017 - Meeting Minutes Ten Pin Building Mezzanine

Present:

Board: Mary Ella Anderson (NC Chair), James Kloor

Staff: Emily Walter, Melanie Bettenhausen

Members: None

Meeting commenced at 6:02pm by Mary Ella Anderson.

1. Welcome and Review

2. Approve Minutes

October 26, 2017 minutes approved by consensus.

3. Election Debrief

- The election went well without glitches.
- There appears to be more awareness of what the co-op is doing, which led to 387 members voting. This is likely partially due to improved outreach and marketing helping get members involved.
- Election materials looked good.
- Staff were better involved and educated about Cooperatives in general and our election process.
- Ed did a good job as chair of the NC committee.

4. Election Application

The group reviewed current board application materials as well as some of other co-ops.

- James - would like the candidate statement decreased to 250 words from 500.
- Melanie – 500 words makes for a good Co-op article.
- The group decided they would like to update the application process by requiring two references, as well as require getting 25 Co-op member signatures to submit with the application.

ACTION: Emily will find an example of how other co-ops require member signatures, and look into policies that guide other boards in accepting or denying board applicants.

5. Employee vs. general board seats

The group discussed eliminating the employee election and having employees run with the general election.

- Having only one election process will simplify the annual election process.
- Employee members are serving the membership, not the employee base, so it makes sense that the entire membership should be able to choose from the employee candidates, verses employees choosing their own candidate.

There was discussion about how many employee board members should be allowed on the board at one time.

- The bylaws currently state that two and only two employees may be on the board.
- Some question why set a limit? If the membership wants to vote more employees onto the board, then let them.
- Ask the membership what they think about how many employees should be allowed on the board.

Next Steps

- Propose changes to the election section in the Board Policy Manual.
- Take edits to the board and request the changes be reviewed by PPC.

6. Board Education

Mary Ella would like to see more educational opportunities for the board.

- In the past we've had speakers at board meetings to speak about specific topics.
- There is budgeted money for board training.

- Helpful trainings would include learning more about basic Co-op ethics, fiduciary responsibility, and how to read financial statements.
- Humboldt County Board of Education offers trainings on Roberts Rule of Order
- A board orientation needs to be developed to educate on the full responsibilities of being on the board, including information about Directors and Officers Insurance and other Co-op permits that require the personal information of board members
- Mary Ella would like to hold a reception for former and prospective board members to celebrate past board members as well as to help with recruitment of new board members. This could take place in April or May.

ACTION: Melanie will talk to the Marketing & Membership department about the timing of such an event.

ACTION: Melanie will look into what budget there is for such an event.

7. Agreements

Next meeting: January 25, 2018

8. Next agenda items

- Strategies for recruiting board candidates
 - o Reception for past board members – board brainstorm – propose what/where/when
- Propose changes to the election section in the Board Policy Manual
- Election timeline
- Board Orientation - distribute answers to board questionnaire

Meeting adjourned at 7:19pm by consensus

Minutes by Emily Walter