

September Board Meeting Recap – submitted by Colin Fiske

At our Sept. 7 meeting, the Board adopted some updates to the Co-op's Bylaws and the Board Policy Manual, heard updates on Board elections and various committee work topics, and discussed the ongoing Eureka store remodel project.

Bylaw & Policy Updates

As part of its ongoing work reviewing our Bylaws and policies for consistency, clarity, and appropriateness, the Policies and Procedures Committee (PPC) recommended several changes which the Board considered at the meeting. The Bylaws changes involved simplifying the descriptions of the roles of Co-op officers (President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary) to ensure that they are not overly complicated nor inconsistent with state laws and common practice. The proposed changes had been reviewed by the Board's attorney for legality (as are all proposed Bylaws changes). The Board decided to adopt the proposed changes and to move detailed information about the roles of officers to more appropriate locations, such as the binders all directors receive when they join the Board.

The Board also considered a number of proposed updates to the Board Policy Manual concerning topics as varied as insurance, theft prevention, Board elections, and communications between employees and Board members. Most of the changes involved removing operational details, which are handled by staff and may change from time to time without Board approval required, from the policies and ensuring that they reflect current practice accurately. After discussion, the Board adopted all the changes recommended by the PPC.

Board Elections Update

Nominating Committee Chair Ed Smith announced that after the counting of ballots, current Board member and Vice President Cheri Strong has been selected by employee-members to fill the open employee-director seat and will appear on the fall ballot for confirmation by the full membership. Ed also announced that current Board member James Kloor was the only candidate to apply for the open general -director seat, and his application was approved by the Nominating Committee. James will appear on the fall ballot for a vote as well. Congratulations to Cheri and James!

Eureka Store Remodel & Other Updates

General Manager Melanie Bettenhausen updated the Board about progress on the Eureka store remodel project. Permit applications have now been submitted to the City of Eureka and are expected to be processed quickly. Financing for the project (which was also discussed by the Board in Executive Session) is shaping up. In fact, some initial work on the remodel is already under way, such as ordering major pieces of equipment. We expect the progress to accelerate significantly very soon.

As usual, Melanie and the Board also discussed a number of other topics, including the recent spike in claims which has resulted in a temporary but significant increase in health care costs for the Co-op (which is self-insured). Experiences like this led the Board to recently send a letter of support to California Assemblymember Jim Wood for SB 562, the Healthy California Act, which would create a single-payer public health insurance system for the state. We believe a public system would not only be better for the people of California, but also would save money and foster more predictability for businesses like the Co-op!

For More Information About the Board Meeting

Members are encouraged to attend Board meetings which are held the first Thursday of every month at 6pm, at the Ten Pin building on the south corner of K and 8th Street in Arcata. Agendas are posted one week prior to the meeting and can be found in both stores, requested at customer service or read online along with past board meeting minutes at www.northcoast.coop/about_us/board/meeting_packets