

**Middlebury Natural Foods Cooperative
Board of Directors Meeting
September 26, 2007
Approved 10/24/07**

Board members present: Ross Conrad, Suzannah Konopke, Barry King, Michelle McCauley, Jeanne Montross, Johanna Nichols, Abi Sessions, and Kira Winslow (presiding)

Board members absent: Kristin Bolton, Ashar Nelson

Others present: Susan DeWind (staff representative), Robert Keren (recorder of minutes), Glenn Lower (GM), Reiner Winkler

Board monitor: Michelle is the board monitor for the meeting

Call to order: Kira called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

Member's business: Kira announced that Jesse Kimler has stepped down from her position on the board to pursue graduate studies in Italy. Kira thanked Jesse for her time and insight during her tenure. In other Member's Business, the board discussed the bulk oats from Canada and the possibility of banding together with other co-ops to buy local oats in quantity, and Abi said members are "distressed" by the food losses caused by power outages over the summer.

Approval of August 22, 2007 minutes

The board amended the minutes to contain the executive session closing time, motion, and vote to the minutes. On a motion by Ross, seconded by Michelle, the board voted 6-0 to approve the minutes as amended. Barry and Abi abstained from the vote.

General Manager's report

Glenn announced that the truck sale was a big success and that it generated 28 percent more in sales than last year. He also reported on three shoplifting incidents, the NCGA General Assembly in Seattle, the new web site, and sales growth in the Produce Department.

Executive Committee

Kira shared the two surveys being used to evaluate the performance of the General Manager this fall, and explained the most recent refinements to those two instruments.

Long Range Planning Committee

Glenn discussed the overlap between the Long Range Planning Committee, the Linking Committee, and other committees, and urged the board to consider its current committee structure vis-à-vis the need to “conserve resources without losing momentum.” A wide-ranging discussion ensued about the Annual Meeting, the importance of long range planning, the role of committees, and the topic of the board’s next retreat.

Annual Meeting Committee

Ross moderated a discussion about the possibilities for the Annual Meeting, ranging from the low-key affair as it is now to the gala/festival/fair concept where the meeting would be a small part of a much larger event. The middle ground – a festive event with food but not a huge gala – was also discussed. The purpose of the Annual Meeting, Ross said, is to connect with members. The immediate goal is to increase participation and attendance at the Annual Meeting. The committee will report on its recommendation at the October meeting.

New/Old Business

Kira explained the need to change the board’s calendar due to a misreading of the public school vacations in 2008. Consequently, the February meeting date was changed from Feb. 27 to Feb. 20, and the April meeting date was changed from April 23 to April 30.

Tasks/Set Agenda

1. Determine when to schedule the financial workshop with Leslie Blow
2. GM Communication Committee report
3. Long Range Planning Committee report
4. Annual Meeting Committee report
5. Fill vacancy on the board
6. Co-op’s role and responsibilities re. advocacy

Adjournment

On a motion by Barry, seconded by Abi, the board voted 8-0 at 8:38 p.m. to go into executive session. Later, on a motion by Abi, seconded by Suzannah, the board voted 8:0 at 8:52 p.m. to exit executive session and adjourn the meeting.