

LMC Board of Directors Monthly Meeting
Tuesday, April 18, 2023
Next meeting Tuesday, May 16, 2023, 5:45 pm

Attendees:

Nina Rosenberg
Liz Davenport
Kari Sutton
Maggie Seeley

Brian Naughton
Michael Smith
John Kwait
Ching Lu
Peter Chestnut

James Esqueda
Rob Dixon
Randy Evans
Lea Quale
Ryenne Hoogeboom

The Board voted to accept the March 2023 Board minutes.

Member Comments

Two member comments submitted via e-mail to “Talk with the Board” were discussed.

- The first comment was from a member requesting that another Coop be built in the Ventana Ranch Westside part of Albuquerque. The Board clarified that the member likely was asking about another store being added within the LMC rather than another Coop. We agreed that the focus now is on the new Avanyu Plaza location and once that store is up and running, we could then be open to considering additional store locations.
- The second comment was from a member concerned about how shoppers would know if meat they were purchasing from LMC came from animals who had received mRNA injections. The LMC GM spoke about this issue in general and said, specifically, that LMC does not at this time carry any meat products from animals who have received mRNA injections and that it does not intend to do so in the future.

GM FYI Report

- Sales ending Mar 31, 2023 were up 6.72% compared to the same period last year.
- Memberships at the end of March were 14,342 compared to 14,098 prior year.
- Co-op management replaced the produce floors in our Santa Fe store

GM Policy Monitoring Report

This month’s Policy Monitoring Report was Financial Conditions Q2 (L3). The Board voted unanimously to approve GM’s L3 report. There was discussion about changes in worker use of sick leave. The Board requested that *net income* be added as a key indicator in future Financial Conditions reports.

Other Board Business

The Board approved sending two Board members (Ching and Liz) to the Consumer Cooperative Management Association (CCMA) 2023 conference. CCMA is the national annual conference for food cooperative directors, management, staff, and sector allies and is being held in Sacramento CA in June. Two other Board members (Nina and Brian) will sign up for virtual participation. Registration in CCMA will be facilitated by LMC management.

Board Monitoring

We reviewed B6, the Board policy on the Conflict of Interest. The Board agreed that the use of the terms *Board Director* and *Board Officer* in B6(10) is ambiguous and tasked the Policy Committee with looking into this further and making a recommendation to the Board for updating the language.

Committee Reports

- Finance. The Committee Chair (Peter) led a discussion about a \$600K adjustment reported as a one-time event incurrence due to switching to a better inventory practice. We also discussed the Board's concern that two key financial indicators – net income and margin – have been “red” for several quarters (the last three for net income and five out of the last six for margin). The Board requested that the “stoplight” chart be added back into the GM's financial reports to the Board. The Chair noted that we are entering into the budget cycle for the next fiscal year (which begins Sept 1st) and that the Board is expecting the GM to present budget assumptions at the June Board meeting. We briefly discussed the Board's budget needs, agreeing we would start with last year's numbers and noting that cost may change if we start having more meetings in person. It was also noted that the LMC Support Office conference room (Albuquerque) where in-person Board meetings have taken place in the past may no longer be available for this use in the future.
- Membership Engagement. The Committee Chair (Ching) started his report with plans for the Board's participation in Earth Fest on Saturday April 22nd. Next, he led a discussion on the Committee's recommendation for Board input to the annual member survey which focused on learning more about other organizations supported by Co-op members. The Board voted unanimously to approve. The idea of having shorter monthly or quarterly surveys instead of just one annual survey was brought up.
- Board Development. The Committee Chair (Kari) outlined topics for the next committee meeting on May 2nd, to include (1) how to capture the LMC “Take-Back-the-Coop” story so this history is not lost and (2) how the Board can educate itself so it will be better prepared for the financial decisions/oversite that will be needed in the future with respect to development of the Avanyu Plaza store.
- Nominations & Elections. The Committee Chair (Liz) reported that the Board and LMC management have merged respective calendars to create one integrated schedule. Maggie has agreed to serve on this committee. Austin Mye (LMC Membership & Outreach Specialist) is working on the new candidate packet and other updates. Liz reported that she has written an article, in collaboration with Lea Quayle (LMC Marketing & Membership Engagement Director), aimed at encouraging members to run for the Board.
- Policy Committee. The Committee Chair (John) announced that there will be a committee meeting via Zoom on Tuesday May 30th @6pm. Note that Policy Committee meetings, along with Membership Engagement Committee meetings, are open to all members.