

LMC Board of Directors Monthly Meeting
Tuesday, July 18, 2023
Next meeting Tuesday, August 15, 2023, 5:45 pm

Attendees:

Nina Rosenberg
Liz Davenport
Brian Naughton
Michael Smith
John Kwait

Kari Sutton
Ching Lu
Peter Chestnut
James Esqueda
Rob Dixon
Randy Evans

Jonathan Loth
Lea Quale
Nicki
Absent:
Maggie Seeley

La Montañita Co-op Business

- Unanimously approved the agenda
- Unanimously approved June 2023 Minutes

Member & Community Comments (from Talk with the Board emails)

- Question if a total of >\$200 annual payments can automatically become a lifetime membership. Referred to the Policy Committee. The next meeting of the Policy Committee will be Aug 29, 2023. Policy Committee meetings are open to members.
- Question concerning the use of sustainable plastics at the coop. Referred to operations.
- Member fell at the RG store. Referred to the landlord.
- Contacted by 1912 in Grants about wanting to start a coop. Major Market in Zuni expressed a similar interest. Referred to James.
- Call from Garfield Park Community Council in Chicago wanting to learn more about business models for community-based grocery stores. Nina scheduled a call with them 10:30 Friday July 21st.

GM Update

Sales

- Our company achieved a sales increase of 11.96% for the month of June compared to last year, with retail stores growing by 7.83% and the DC by 1.4%. Our average basket size has also improved by 97¢. This shows our commitment to success and growth.

Member-Owner Survey

- In the month of June, we conducted our member-owner survey. We're pleased to report that we received 2000 + responses, which is on par with last year's participation rate. This year we also saw an increase in the use of our digital survey tool, with only 271 printed surveys collected. Our Membership team is currently compiling the results of the survey questions, and our General Manager will present a report to the Board later this year

Round Up for Change

- In June, our co-op selected AfroMundo as the recipient for our Round Up for Change campaign. AfroMundo aims to unite communities, build partnerships and offer a platform for sharing our stories with the goal of promoting fairness, positivity, healing and hope.

We're proud to announce that we raised a total of \$8347 for our non-profit partners in the previous month

Membership

- As of the end of June, our membership has reached 14,639 and is still steadily increasing

Other Updates

- Our Gallup store's signage received a much-needed update last month, complete with our new logo and branding. Our team continues to ensure that all necessary updates are implemented throughout the organization



GM Policy Monitoring – Financial Conditions Q3 – L3

- The Board commented that the GM's report is based on the language in the old Policy Manual rather than the current one that was last modified Sep 2022. The differences are not significant, so there was no request to modify this month. The Board also noted that it wasn't always clear how to reconcile report data with the various financial reports, possibly due to rounding and precision, and corrected a couple of typos.
- With respect to the policy on keeping the Board informed about financial issues, the Board offered ways in which it sees the GM has complied beyond what was included in the report.
- The Board expressed appreciation to James and his team for the great numbers this quarter.

Acceptance of GM Report

- The Board unanimously approved L3 Monitoring Report.

Committee Reports

- **Finance Committee** - Brian for Peter
 - Reporting on May 2023 and Q3 (March/April/May)
 - Excellent numbers. The new inventory system pays off
 - No 'steps to improve' because all Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) are green

- The quarterly report is in the new format agreed upon by the Finance Committee and James
- Avanyu Update
 - Working with 3 banks who want to loan us money
 - Original Marketing Survey will be updated by the company for the business plan
 - Still not building permits for the shell
 - We have till June of 2025 on the RG lease
 - Project plan will require board approval in Oct. or Nov
- New Budget
 - Proposed budget has been submitted and will be voted on at the next board meeting in August
- Next meeting Aug. 8

- **Financial Education Workshop plans - Brian**
 - Saturday, July 29, 2023 9am to 1pm at the LMC Support Office
 - Draft Agenda approved
 - Still finalizing documents
 - Watch for an email to specify dietary restrictions and to request hard copy of the documents
 - Request IT be present at some point to help members with passwords and zoom

- **Membership Engagement - Ching**
 - Ching presented initial plans for a Coop Café. La Montañita has not held one for many years.
 - Proposed date: Sept. 23 or 30
 - Proposed location: Emanuel Presbyterian Church (near NH)
 - Lunch provided by LMC
 - 10am to 1pm
 - Topics for the Coop Café were discussed
 - Partnership with organizations around NM
 - The co-op is a part of so many communities and programs. It's not like we are starting from scratch. We are building on the success of the foundation others have built for us.
 - What's the role of the coop in NM food ecosystem
 - What's happening externally effecting the coop
 - Coop's place in the ecosystem 3-5 years from now (start with the current state)
 - Kick off strategic thinking re: members and coop
 - Coop's place in NM ecosystem now and 5 years from now
 - Looking at the purpose of the co-op in the future could help the board update the vision for the co-op.
 - One question many Co-op have is: "Do we need an 8th cooperative principle aimed at equity and inclusion?"
 - Next meeting July 25.
 - Ching will present a proposal to the Board at the Aug BOD meeting

- **Board Election**
 - We discussed status of the Candidate Packet. We are waiting on final version. It wasn't clear when this would be available on La Montañita's website. Referred to management (Charlie).
 - The schedules for a candidate forum and the annual LMC meeting weren't clear. Follow-up is needed.
 - It wasn't decided if there would be a BD or NE committee meeting in August. The date of Aug 1st is available for such a meeting.

- **Communication to members and staff on Ends - Nina**
 - Nina asked about the status of the Board's 2nd short piece in *The Scoop* on our Ends (making healthy food accessible). The answer was that this would be out later in July. She also asked about whether the 1st short piece that was in *The Scoop* on our Ends (local food systems) has come out in *The Climb*. The answer was it was in the July issue of *The Climb*. Management took the action to send an electronic version of this issue to Board members.

- **Meeting was adjourned**