

Minutes of the Tuesday, September 24, 2024 Park Slope Food Coop General Meeting

The monthly General Meeting (GM) of the Park Slope Food Coop (PSFC) was held at the Prospect Park Picnic House on Tuesday, September 24, 2024, beginning at 7:11 p.m. A few weeks beforehand, an announcement about the scheduled meeting and the agenda were posted on the PSFC website, foodcoop.com, inviting members to participate. Meeting materials were made available to all Coop members by email before the meeting. Chair Committee members Josef Szende and Imani Q'ryn served as chair and secretary.

Open Forum

Topics raised by members included if and when the community flyer space in the Coop's hallway would be put back in use, suggestions to open up Coop wall space to member artists and making it possible for members to receive a "happy birthday" greeting at the entrance when they visit the store on their birthday, an idea on allowing expired member credits to be redirected to member investments, a request for a meeting between parties on either side of the issue of boycotting Israeli products and a call for reforming decision-making by a wider use of referendum voting.

Financial Report and General Coordinators' (GC) Reports

GC Joe Szladek presented a financial report, referring to notes and statements for the 28-weeks period ending 8/11/24. GC Elinoar Astrinsky made a report, which included information on what sales discounts means at the Coop versus what similar "sales" on products means at private supermarkets, news on produce and other product highlights, staff comings and goings, and the upcoming deadline to apply for a seat on the Personnel Committee. Elinoar also responded to issues raised during Open Forum. The meeting discussed the reports.

Committee Reports

Equality, Access and Community Committee (EACC) members Naomi Brussel and Adam Neese made a report that included an announcement about the recent passing of EACC member Maitefa Angaza and an upcoming member demographics questionnaire launch.

Agenda item 1 – Election: Hearing Officers Committee

Hearing Officers Committee Member Liam Malanaphy described the purpose of the committee and introduced Catherine McCaw and Jonathan Fox, who were both running to be reelected to the committee. Both candidates addressed the meeting and answered questions. The meeting voted by paper ballot. Election results: Catherine McCaw received 152 yes votes and 7 no votes. Jonathan Fox received 152 yes votes and 8 no votes. Catherine and Jonathan were reelected to 3-year terms on the Hearing Officers Committee.

Agenda item 2 – Discussion: Proposed Amendments to Coop Bylaws to Make All General Meetings Hybrid

Members Morgan Vo and CJ Glackin introduced the item and the members discussed it. Below in italics is the item description published in the circulated GM agenda.

Proposal to make all General Meetings hybrid—both in-person and online—through amendments to the PSFC Bylaws and updates to the Guide to General & Annual Meetings to permit and facilitate in-person and remote voting and participation.

PSFC Bylaws—Proposed Amendments

ARTICLE VI

MEETINGS

1. The annual meeting of the membership of the corporation shall be held on such day in the month of June as the directors shall fix.
2. The Board of Directors shall meet at least ten times each year on such dates as it shall appoint and at such other times as it, by resolution, shall fix. The membership shall be given notice of each such meeting prior to such meeting. The directors shall inform those members who shall be present of the nature of the business to come before the directors and receive the advice of the members on such matters. The portion of the Board of Directors meeting that is devoted to receiving the advice of the members shall be known as the General Meeting and is not in any way intended to be one of the "meetings of the membership" that is referred to elsewhere in these bylaws. The members who gather to give advice to the directors may choose to vote in order to express their support or opposition for any of the issues that have come before the meeting. *Presence and gathering at meetings shall be by physical presence and by virtual presence consistent with New York Business Corporation Law Section 708(c).*
3. A quorum for all meetings of the directors shall be one-third of the directors. A quorum for all meetings of the membership, including the annual meeting, shall be 100 members of such body. Each member is entitled to one vote.
4. Except as otherwise provided, all matters shall be decided by a majority vote of those present and voting. All votes shall be cast in person and no proxy voting shall be permitted, except at and only at annual meetings provided, however, that the Board may, by majority vote, direct that a mail ballot be taken on any matter. *Presence and voting at meetings shall be by physical presence and by virtual presence consistent with New York Business Corporation Law Section 708(c).*

Presentation of Minutes

Coop secretary Elizabeth Tobier presented the minutes of the August 27, 2024 GM, which were approved by general consent.

Board of Directors' Meeting

Keyian Vafai chaired the Board of Directors' meeting. All board members were present: Elinoar Astrinsky, Tess Brown-Lavoie, Tim Hospodar, Imani Q'ryn, Keyian Vafai and Brandon West. All members of the board voted in favor of accepting the advice of the members on the minutes of the August 27, 2024 GM. All members of the board voted in favor of accepting the advice of the members on item #2, Hearing Officers Election.

The meeting adjourned at 9:27 p.m.



Elizabeth Tobier, Secretary
Park Slope Food Coop
Brooklyn, NY
September 25, 2024
(Approved by the October 29, 2024 PSFC GM)