

Minutes: Yahara River Grocery Cooperative Board Meeting

Training Room, Stoughton Fire Department, 401 East Main Street, Stoughton, Wisconsin
6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m., Tuesday, October 14, 2008

Board Members and Committee Chairs Present:

Myra Hajny (President); Norma Sampson (Vice President); Warren Kmiec (Treasurer);
Deb Piper (Secretary); Marlene Widra (Member-at-Large); Laura Anderson (Membership);
Homer Howard (Senior Liaison); Jon Hajny (Research); Stephen Lawrence (Business Development);
Philana Friede (Fundraising)

Other Committee Members Present:

Mary Condon (Research); Kristine Vaughn (Membership)

Also Present:

Pam and Steve Barnes (Members); Stan Koopmans (Evergreen State Bank)

Myra Hajny called the meeting to order and reviewed the agenda for the meeting. Deb Piper reported that the review and approval of the September 23 board meeting would be deferred until the October 21 board meeting. Myra distributed copies of her October 13 memo to staff letting them now about the status of co-op and about the upcoming general membership meeting.

FUNDRAISING

Harvest Dinner: Stephen Lawrence reported that this fundraiser most likely would be postponed until next fall, due to the lack of time available to plan the event.

2nd Annual Viking Chili Bowl: Deb reported that the gross sales from the chili cook-off were approximately \$2,700 with the net proceeds totaling approximately \$1,400. She stated that the complete itemized list of expenses has to be determined before net proceeds can be reported.

Pour House: Myra noted that the Pour House donated \$150 to YRGC from a portion of the proceeds of their opening night comedy show.

INSURANCE AGENT – JON HAJNY

Jon reported that the YRGC insurance agent switched from a McFarland agency to a Monticello agency, and would like the Co-op to continue business with him. Jon inquired if this is the time that the Co-op should look for local representation to keep business in the community. Discussion ensued. A **MOTION** (Howard/Widra) was made: the YRGC board should remain with the current insurance agent. **MOTION** passed (Anderson and Sampson abstain).

FUNDRAISING (cont.) – NORMA SAMPSON

Norma reported that she met with the Victorian Holiday committee to further discuss the revenue split of the Dickens of a Run event. The Victorian Holiday committee voted on the following resolution: for this first year of the event, YRGC would receive 75% of the net profit and the Victorian Holiday committee would receive 25%. For 2009, the revenue split would be re-negotiated and YRGC retains the right of first refusal. On **MOTION** (Sampson/Anderson) and unanimous vote, YRGC agreed to accept the full Victorian Holiday committee's proposal (a 75/25% split of the net profit for the 2008 Dickens of a Run event, revenue split to be re-negotiated each year, and YRGC has right of first refusal).

Norma also reported that the Victorian Holiday committee would like representatives of YRGC to attend the Women's Expo at the Alliant Energy Center November 22-23. The Holiday committee has a booth at the event; YRGC would be able to hand out food samples and applications for the Dickens of a Run event.

TREASURER'S REPORT – WARREN KMIEC

Warren welcomed Stan Koopmans from Evergreen State Bank. Stan discussed the community partnership between Evergreen and Stoughton businesses and reviewed the process by which Evergreen granted YRGC its line-of-credit loan. The loan is at maturity at the end of October. Stan suggested that substantial changes need to be made in the store's operations to bring customers back and make the business successful. Stan announced the bank is willing to extend YRGC's line-of-credit loan for an additional six months at the existing terms and suggested that any amount that can be paid down on the principal would be a good idea though not necessary.

On **MOTION** (J. Hajny/Anderson) and unanimous vote, the board agreed to work with Evergreen State Bank to extend the line-of-credit loan for an additional six months. In addition, on a Friendly Amendment by Laura Anderson, accepted by Jon Hajny, it was agreed that YRGC would make payments on the principal amount whenever possible. It was also determined that Myra Hajny and Warren Kmiec would sign the resolution

required by the bank for the loan extension.

ACTION PLAN– DEB PIPER

Deb reviewed the latest version of the action plan, primarily the Overview and Operational Plan. Board members offered suggestions for changes and additions. It was decided that Deb would make those changes and distribute the plan electronically for further review. The marketing plan is one part of the plan that still needs to be developed and Norma Sampson will work on that portion.

OTHER BUSINESS

Discussion ensued about the upcoming membership meeting and the proposed action plan. Methods to encourage members to return to shop at the store were discussed. The general consensus of the board was that store operations needed to be significantly changed and improved in order for the store to succeed.

On **MOTION** (J. Hajny/Anderson) and unanimous vote, the board voted to terminate Mike Markin's employment as YRGC General Manager effective immediately. Discussion ensued about interim store management and responsibilities, and severance pay for Mike. On **MOTION** (J. Hajny/Anderson) and unanimous vote, the board voted to pay Mike for the current pay period and the following pay period. Myra Hajny will write a letter to Mike in addition to calling him to let him know about this decision and to set up a time to pick up his personal effects.

On **MOTION** (J. Hajny/Anderson), the board meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

The next board meeting will be held October 21, 2008 at 6 p.m. The location of the meeting will be the Giles Dow Room in City Hall.

Respectfully submitted,
Deb Piper
Secretary
Yahara River Grocery Cooperative