

Medford Food Co-op Annual Meeting

May 31, 2015

The Medford Food Co-op (*MFC*) Annual Meeting was held from 4 to 6 pm on Sunday, May 31, 2015. Members-owners were invited to share in a picnic, where they could participate in photos, games, music, food, other activities, and a business meeting. The event was held at Pheasant Fields Farm in Medford. Members-owners also had the opportunity to vote for Board of Director positions, and regarding two ByLaws changes. **General Manager Anne Carter** presented a brief store update. (A copy of **Anne's** written report follows these minutes.) **Board of Directors President Jim Sims** also spoke briefly, and introduced other Directors present.

Approximately 133 members-owners (and their children) attended the meeting, which is in compliance with Section II, Article 3.6 of the Bylaws (there are currently approximately 2,600 *MFC* members-owners):

- **Section 3.6 - Quorum and voting.** The lesser of twenty-five owners or ten percent of all owners shall be necessary and sufficient to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of owners.

Ballots cast at the picnic were added to ballots cast in-store and/or received in the mail. Once totaled, ballots showed the election of the following three Directors (to three-year terms each), who each received at least 48 votes:

- Debi Boen
- Fran Batzer
- Patty Casebolt

The following ByLaw changes were also approved:

EXISTING:

Article I Organization

Section 1.1 – Name. The name of the organization is “**Medford Market Cooperative**” (referred to in these bylaws as “the Co-op”).

CHANGED TO:

Article I Organization

Section 1.1 – Name. The name of the organization is “**Medford Food Co-op**” (referred to in these bylaws as “the Co-op”).

(vote: 41 in favor)

EXISTING:

Section 4.3 – Nominations, election and terms. Directors may be nominated in any of the following ways: by the Board; by a committee of owners appointed by the board; or by petition signed by at least fifteen owners and submitted to the Co-op at least forty-five days before commencement of election of directors. In addition one director may be nominated by the staff. Directors shall be elected by owners at the annual meeting or at a meeting in lieu thereof. Terms of directors shall be so staggered that one-third of the terms, or as nearly so as may be practicable, shall expire in each year. **Directors shall be elected for terms of two years. To facilitate staggering of terms, some directors may periodically be elected for a one-year term.** Directors shall hold office until their successors are elected or until their terms are terminated sooner in accordance with these bylaws.

CHANGED TO:

Section 4.3 – Nominations, election and terms. Directors may be nominated in any of the following ways: by the Board; by a committee of owners appointed by the board; or by petition signed by at least fifteen owners and submitted to the Co-op at least forty-five days before commencement of election of directors. In addition one director may be nominated by the staff. Directors shall be elected by owners at the annual meeting or at a meeting in lieu thereof. Terms of directors shall be so staggered that one-third of the terms, or as nearly so as may be practicable, shall expire in each year. **Directors shall be elected for terms of three years. To facilitate staggering of terms, some directors may periodically be elected for a two-year term.** Directors shall hold office until their successors are elected or until their terms are terminated sooner in accordance with these bylaws.

(vote: 49 in favor, 1 against)

Respectfully Submitted

Debi Boen
Secretary, BOD

ADDENDUM: Copy of GM Anne Carter's Annual Meeting report:

Annual Membership Meeting
May 31, 2015
Embrace Change!

Welcome

- Happy to have you all here.
- Thank Board & staff who have put on this picnic.
- Introduce all staff who are present.

2014 Highlights

- 2014 was a successful year for Medford Food Co-op. Let's look at a few areas of comparison:
 - ↳ 2014 Quarterly sales compared with 2013. Total 2014 sales were 12.75% higher than 2013.
 - ↳ New Owners – steady growth of new owners. Currently have about 2600.
 - ↳ Number of customers shopping at the Co-op has increased. 2014 quarterly customer transactions compared to 2013. Average number of daily customer transactions increased by 11% from 2013 to 2014.
- Embrace Change! We're working to both accommodate and fuel this growth. A few of the changes we made in 2014:
 - ↳ Kombucha on tap – started out with 2 taps in January and now have 6 taps.
 - ↳ Our own fresh, deli food – started in March of last year. By March of this year, monthly sales had more than doubled.
 - ↳ Store branding change that included a logo change, developing a new website, and installing a new street sign. Surprisingly, the sign alone has drawn dozens of new customers in!
 - ↳ The Board implemented a new system of governance that improves their effectiveness.
 - ↳ A Board initiative to extend some of the owner loans was successful. About 1/3 of the loans were extended. Further explanation: in 2010 & 2011, about 100 individuals loaned the Co-op money in order to get started. Many of those loans mature this year. The extension was a big step for us: indicated that the owners who initially invested in the Co-op have confidence in our progress; and it offers us the opportunity to consider expansion much sooner.
- Embrace Change! Working in a store that is growing and changing is exciting & fun most of the time. Some days, though, can be challenging. We are fortunate to have an amazing team of people working at the Co-op. They work hard behind the scenes: stepping up to cover for co-workers who are sick or on vacation, moving between multiple departments and roles, adjusting work schedules... to ensure that the store runs smoothly and you, our customers, receive excellent service every time you walk in the door.

There have been some transitions among staff. You'll notice some new faces working throughout the store. A few people who started out with the opening of the store have moved on to other jobs & other places. Ian Stoy, our Marketing/Member Services/IT/Beer & Wine Manager, will be moving to Eugene later this summer. Ian has been a member of the management team since the beginning and made significant contributions to our start-up and development. Ian, we are grateful for all that you have done, and we'll miss you!

Change Before You Have To! What's ahead?

- Partnering with other organizations and businesses that are supporting the local food economy, especially the production of organic food.
 - ↳ For example, this year at the Jackson County Fair, Access will have an entire exhibit depicting our local food system. A series of displays will represent all the people and businesses involved in growing, harvesting, transporting, marketing, and cooking local food. We're sponsoring the grocery part of the exhibit.
 - ↳ We are now a partner in the Rogue Valley Food System Network – a group of individuals, organizations and businesses working together to strengthen our local food system.
 - ↳ The Co-op continued to support Our Family Farm Coalition and the Center for Food Safety's defense of Jackson County's vote to protect family farmers from genetically engineered crops. Many volunteers helped to keep county residents informed about the defense and to help raise funds. Your donations at the register raised \$2693; the Coalition's Kickstarter Campaign raised over \$35,000.

Friday afternoon we learned that federal court upheld the Jackson County GMO ban.

- The growth in sales and popularity of the prepared deli foods make it clear that this is an area we could expand significantly if we had a commercial kitchen. We want the Co-op to be the place to go in Medford for organic deli foods. We're looking at the feasibility of using the annex for a commercial kitchen and deli area.
- Future expansion – Eventually we'll outgrow our current store. This year we'll begin gathering data to consider our options for future expansion.
- Board and management team worked to create Ends – big picture goals that we're working towards:
 - ↳ MFC is a sustainable and growing business that provides economic, environmental and social benefits for the Rogue Valley
 - ↳ Our community understands and embraces:
 - ✦ The benefits of choosing local, organic food.
 - ✦ Providing all residents with access to healthy food.
 - ✦ The cooperative business model.
 - ↳ There is a thriving local organic food economy.