

Minutes from Co-op Meeting March 9, 2006

Meeting started at 6:00 pm and was ended at 7 pm by Tina Johnson

The meeting was facilitated by Tina Johnson

Introductions were given

Bilal Taylor, Wendy Lorenz, Rick Goldstein, Gerwayne McEleaney, Tara Jones-Stephens, Rob Auerbach, Tom Quigley, Joe Henwood, Timothy Sams (phoned in), Michael Froehlich, LarRaine Branch, James Piette Johnson, Tracey (Food Trust), Nessie Johnson, Tina Johnson were all in attendance.

Discussed the formation of the supermarket co-op and the steering committee, and its role in its development.

James and Tracey discussed the Food Trust Fresh Food Initiative and the grant, loan programs available to supermarket operators. James explained the responsibility of the group to have equity in the project before money will be made available to group

Rick Goldstein asked if a co-op would qualify for funding. James said that it would. But this was the first program of its kind that they would be looking at funding.

Joe Henwood asked how much equity would need to be put up in order to be awarded a grant or loan. James said that it would depend. But it was important that the members contribute to the equity. Tracey added that she agreed that the equity was important also as it shows the commitment of the members to see the project through.

James said that there was a woman that they had wanted to fund but were unable to due to her limited skill-set but also her unwillingness to put up any of her own money.

Tina mentioned to the group the difference between the investment of a conventional supermarket and a co-op. And that the group that was forming would be the charter members. She added that these members would be responsible for the market and feasibility analysis in order to decide if we should go forward. She asked who was in support of the food co-op formation by a show of hands. All of the people in the room (not James or Tracey) were in support of it. Tina also said that the next step would be to form the steering committee from the present members in the room. She asked for volunteers and the group all said that they would be willing to serve on the steering committee would be willing to be a participant on the steering committee