

Here are the minutes from the mtg on Mon, 4/17. Our next mtg is on Mon, 4/24, 6pm at the Freeman Cultural Center.

present: Rob, Nessie, Tina, Michael F, Tim Sams
excused absences: Joe Henwood, Tara J-S, Joan Br.

1. Introductions

2. Review of Minutes from April 10 Meeting

3. Updates

Decision was made to continue meeting at the Freeman Cultural Center (FCC). FCC will give us the lower daytime rate for our evening meetings. Rob will obtain funds through a grant that he administers to pay the costs.

Incorporation--phone conference is scheduled with Dina Schlossberg, Michael F, & Tina on Thurs, 4/20

Elaim meeting--Tina met with Richard Elam of the Franklin Mint Federal Credit Union on 4/17. Elam is "excited" about our project. He asked us for our business plan & feasibility study. He invited Tina to speak at the Rotary Club (of which he's the president.) He expressed interest in possibly opening a branch of the credit union in the co-op.

CDS meeting--Tina spoke with Denise of the Cooperative Development Services for abt 30 minutes. Decided to table the conversation until after Tina speaks with Kate at Keystone Development Center because of concerns that the traditional co-op model that CDS is more familiar with won't work in Chester. Tina & Kate are meeting on 4/19 to propose a plan for the feasibility study.

Annette Pyatt--Tim invited Annette Pyatt of Chester Community Improvement Project to come to tonight's mtg but she couldn't make it. We'll invite her to come to a later mtg.

Mailbox--Tara checked into getting a post ofc box. It's \$50/year. We passed the hat for \$25 for the first 6 months.

EIN/fictitious name--Tina said that we have received our EIN. Our fictitious name is "Chester Supermarket Co-op" We don't have a bank account yet. Tina will call Elam about opening an account at the credit union--possibly under our new name, Chester's Community Grocery Co-op.

4. By-laws

One of the first steps in incorporating is agreeing to a set of by-laws. Rob suggested a small group to draft the by-laws. This small group will be Nessie, Rob, Michael F, and Tina (with Tim as an interested, yet swamped, observer.) Michael F will take responsibility for getting this process started.

5. Membership Outreach

--Business/Organizations--Tina will take to Spring V & LarRaine about putting together a proposal for the next mtg about outreach to businesses & organizations

--Individuals--we discussed a proposal brought to the group by Michael F. The proposal is attached to this email. Nessie will do the first draft of an outreach brochure to start recruiting members

6. Location Planning

We discussed possible different sites but took no concrete action about these sites. We discussed a judicial sale that was going to take place at City Hall on 4/19. We agreed that it was too short of a time frame for the co-op to do anything about this, but several individuals expressed interest in bidding on properties. We agreed to open our next mtg with a walking tour of downtown Chester to talk about possible sites.

Next mtg topics: 1) walking tour; 2) fundraising plan; 3) schedule future meetings

Tim will facilitate

Next mtg date/time: Mon, 4/24