

**Chester's Community Grocery Coop
Board of Directors Meeting
February 11, 2008
White Rock Church, Franklin and 3rd Streets, Chester, PA**

Present: Tina Johnson, LarRaine Branch, George Brown, Alton (Kakie) Loper, Christine Lussier

Excused Absence: Ken Wright

Meeting called to order 6:05

George motioned to accept the agenda.
LarRaine seconded it.

Announcements:

Kakie resigned from the Board and as membership committee chairman effective immediately.

Nomination of Board Members

The Coop by-laws require a minimum of 7 board members. Currently, we only have 5 members.

Tina proposed Emily Copeland as a new board member.

Tina proposed dissolving the membership committee. She feels the church liaison committee and general membership meeting committee our sufficient.

We will have two orientation meetings a month.

We have funds to purchase the truck. It will be paid out of loan advances.

We are waiting to hear back from the IRS to see if we are approved for our 501(c)(3) status. We did have notification that our application was received in January.

Membership Committee

House Parties – Mr Brown will conduct an orientation at his home next week.
Emily Copeland is keeping track of membership base and payment status.

Church Liaison Committee

LarRaine met with Barb Lappen to discuss finalizing luncheon. The Swarthmore Presbyterian Church will supply packets, meals and invitations. Lunch will be on March 31. Barb would like Tina, Rev.Foster, LaRaine, Ken, Keith Reeves, and Kakie to attend.

Loan Program

Pledged loans are \$18,000. Board members need to execute their loan agreements. We need to find someone who can manage the loan program.

Finance Committee

Finance committee is working on getting together working financials to provide to Joe Holtz. Joe Holtz will be providing comments/assistance for us.

General Membership Committee

LarRaine felt the meeting was good – a renewed surge of energy from membership. George felt there could be better member participation.

Tina will be doing a training with the Committee to help them to organize future meetings.

Co-op Market

The Market generated \$375 receipts this past Saturday.

We need to have one place that everyone can access where we keep the workslot schedule. We can use gmail to maintain one schedule.

We have added 20 people to workslots since Ken's team has been doing calls once a week.

Last week we applied for a state grant for the Farm Fresh Market. It is a 3 month grant awarded to farmers' markets operating in underserved communities. We want to hire staff and extend our hours. We will hear if we are approved in the first week of March.

We discussed options for extending hours of the Market. Rather than have a second day, we could extend Saturday hours. We would consider extending hours in another 3 to 4 weeks.

Building

Tina wrote a letter to Thaddeus Kirkland and Dominic Pileggi asking for assistance with developing the Coop.

At the press conference to announce the state funding for the soccer stadium, Representative Kirkland told George that money was set aside for a major supermarket. Regarding the Coop, there will be some funds to subsidize the \$200 investment.

Ed Changikin from White Rose introduced Tina to a consultant from TRF (Mr. Whitney.) Mr. Whitney spoke to Don Hinkle Brown, founder and president of TRF. The feedback he received was that our idea was very good, but he felt we didn't have the expertise to make it happen. Nevertheless, they are interested in our venture and looking at us seriously given the fact that we are working with a developer, that we raised money in the last year, and that White Rose is seriously planning on supporting us. We resent our

previous application. \$250,000 is the maximum grant and it is based on square footage. We would be eligible for this grant with our 3600 square feet.

If we get a letter of commitment, we can then apply for the money from the Sunshine Ladies.

New Business

We need to start buying equipment. We will need coolers and refrigeration for the market. We need to develop a process for making purchases. In our initial discussions, we outlined the following process::

- Identify a need

- Gets a minimum of 3 quotes from vendors

- Bring quotes to Board of Directors for a vote

Tina is going to research cost of refrigeration.

Paul needs to provide us 3 months of electric bills for us to negotiate a price to use Andre's Café for the Market.

We need to identify a store management team. We need to recruit for a store manager. We can use the grant money to pay the manager and have them run the Farm Fresh Market as a trial period.

George motioned to adjourn.

LarRaine seconded.

Meeting adjourned 7:55.

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