

THE ISLA VISTA FOOD COOPERATIVE
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Wednesday May 17, 2023 at 6:30pm
Held online via Zoom

Directors Present: Lisa Oglesby (LO), Jillian Tempesta (JT), Megan Ashley (MA), Tyler Marton (TM)

Directors Absent: Nadia Lee Abushanab, Taylor Tait

Staff Present: Hernan Cornejo (GM)

Owners/Community Present: Matt Richards (MR), Kent McClard (KM), Anbareen Shefa (AS), Eric Shug (ES)

6:35 p.m. – Meeting begins

1) Approval of Agenda for May 17, 2023

Motion: To approve meeting agenda for May 17, 2023, as presented.

MA/GG 5-0-0

2) Announcements & Owner Input

LO highlighted the Meet the Board event from 1-3 pm on the IVFC patio. This is an opportunity for owners to meet the new Board. Another item is the May 24 Final Isla Vista Mobility Plan Workshop meeting at the Isla Vista Community Center. It runs from 6-8 p.m. There are also a bunch of tastings and events at the co-op throughout May.

MR congratulates the new directors. He mentions that the agenda looks the same every month. He suggests that in addition to the committee names, we include a few bullet points on what each of the committees are working on to encourage guests to attend.

GM shared that the e-news is now sharing information about co-ops. The current one shared information about the cooperative model, and the second one will be about being an owner. GM invites the board to send the Marketing Manager any comments on that topic.

AS entered at 6:53p.m.

3) Approval of April 19, 2023 Board of Directors meeting minutes

Motion: To approve meeting minutes for April 19, 2023, as presented.

LO/MA, 5-0-0

4) Board Calendar & Reporting

a) Finance Committee/Treasurer's Report

This was an introductory meeting among new Treasurer GG, TM, LO, and GM.

The co-op has about \$40,000 more in cash over last April. This was achieved by cutting expenses. The committee also discussed how to set up local delivery and how to attract more customers through bulk orders. The April P&L snapshot is enclosed.

LO signed the paperwork for the line of credit, which is now activated (although not active, as we are not using it). GM & LO were notified that we need to have CPA-compiled financials within 90 days as part of our mortgage loan covenant with Mechanics.

b) Owner Engagement Committee Report

LO, MA, and JT convened for an OEC meeting on 4/26 to review the charter and calendar of OEC events. One idea that came up was to table at the farmers market with one of our produce suppliers, like Ebby's Organics, so we don't have to worry about setting up our own station. Mike Iniguez is on the board of the Santa Barbara Farmers market so he might be able to facilitate this. JT swung by the co-op on 5/9 for tabling but couldn't find the usual supplies and ended up hanging out on the patio more casually and chatted with some owners. We may need to re-up supplies after the April owner drive; the OEC will reach out to the marketing team to restock.

AS brought up Co-opula, a big community festival in IV that happened annually 10+ years ago. It was a chance for all the different cooperative organizations to table and host a carnival.

MR supported the idea of inter-cooperative work inquired whether anyone on the current board had gotten together with other co-ops in town before. LO answered that pre-COVID, there was more of a general familiarity in the community among stakeholders (shared directors, co-op staff, etc.). Recent turnover has made that less of the case. JT added that many of the housing co-ops order bulk from the IVFC. GM added that it is a priority of the marketing team to work on this partnership.

c) Board Projects 2023

LO checked in on the following three Board projects:

1) Bylaws Update

LO recapped an email planning a meeting for directors to review the new bylaws. The consensus is that we will meet on Zoom with a week's notice so everyone has time for review. If all goes well, we can do outreach in the fall and vote at the owner meeting in November.

2) Strategic Priorities Review

The Meeting the Moment Strategic Priorities included an overlay that addressed the pandemic. Now that we are in a different phase, it is time to revisit the priorities. LO suggests a meeting or two to discuss which ones are still relevant and take the time to determine they reflect the IVFC at this time.

3) Co-op History Document

The current Co-op History document is out-of-date and needs a system for updates. This is a sizeable enough project that it should go back to the Board. MA suggested an email or a form to solicit stories about co-op history. MR suggested we speak with Carmen Lodise, who recently reissued his book detailing the history of Isla Vista. JT commented that this is a good project for the OEC, and that it is also a good opportunity to conduct oral histories with co-op founders.

ES entered at 7:20 p.m.

5) GM Reporting

General Overview

GM reported a challenge with serial shoplifters who happen to be unhoused. Previous use of the IV Foot Patrol led to negative feedback on social media. The GM requested for Board guidance on this issue. LO acknowledged that this is a complicated issue and advised that we should maintain the operating procedures in place, e.g., if someone is caught shoplifting, they are asked not to return. GM clarified that they're operating on more of a three-strike procedure. In the one instance a shoplifter was detained, he was brought to a shelter. LO mentioned that previously, they have been directed to community resources provided by UCSB and Food Not Bombs. Ideas raised included a community fridge and a register round-up program. GM noted that it is usually alcohol, not food, that is shoplifted. LO suggested that the Board brainstorm a script that reflects our values in regard to our policy for response that workers can use on social media and in person. JT inquired about the FMs opinions and GM replied that they are frustrated and anxious. MR's opinion is that the staff is overreacting and that they need to be trained to not be fearful. GM responded that the staff has had training in de-escalation and crisis management. By asking workers to intervene, we are exposing them to risk.

The GM attended the National Cooperative Annual Meeting of GMs and co-op leadership. There were many inspiring projects and ideas.

HR/Staffing

Over the past few weeks, we gained three new cashiers. Welcome them to the co-op!

GM plans to slow down operations to adjust to the slow season. Operating hours will be reduced, and we will have a skeleton crew. We will keep normal operating hours until we see a substantial reduction.

We are looking for a way to increase staff morale. There are several plans in place, like an event with other co-ops and a talent show.

AS leaves 7:53 p.m.

Marketing/Outreach

The department is planning a DoorDash initiative by June. This will serve customers up to 10 miles outside the co-op. The team is also launching a customer satisfaction

survey initiative, including customer intercepts on their way into and out of the co-op. More community engagement events are forthcoming.

Maintenance and Repairs

We spent \$1,900 on the kombucha freezer, which is continuing to have problems. The compressor is overheating and burning wires. Repairs to this unit are not recommended (\$3,800) as they will be close to the value of new equipment (\$6,000). GM will send the invoices to the Board via email and we will discuss a motion to approve the expense offline since several directors are absent.

Financials

April sales of \$365,219 were 7.1% below 2021 (which were \$395,689) and 12% below our budget of \$417,473. However, as a result of anticipatory cost reduction measures that reduced our operational expenses below our budget and below 2021, we were able to achieve a positive net result of \$26,997. Our cash position increased \$42,802 for the period. May is looking positive, although we anticipate a drop with the upcoming end of the academic year. However, the GM is expecting a positive result for May. Last week, sales were at the ~\$84,000 level.

As of 5/15/2023, our balance in the primary accounts (checking + savings) is \$290,478.

Membership

We lost one active member this month.

6) Upcoming Meetings

- a) Finance Committee meeting: May 19th at 4:30pm
- b) Meet The Board Event: Saturday May 20th, 1-3pm
- c) Owner Engagement Committee meeting: TBD
- d) June Board of Directors meeting: June 21st at 6:30pm
- e) Remaining New Director Training: TDB

All guests leave meeting at 8:18 p.m.

Board and GM enter Closed Session.

7) Closed Session

8:51 p.m. meeting ends.

Minutes taken by Jillian Tempesta, Corporate Secretary.

Meeting minutes approved by Board motion, June 28, 2023.