

WHOLE FOODS COMMUNITY CO-OP, INC.
Minutes of 2024 Annual Owners Meeting
at Clyde Iron Works, Duluth, MN
on October 22 2024
Draft Minutes for Owner Approval

BUSINESS MEETING:

Welcome and Introduction

WFC Board President, Maria Isley, called the business meeting to order at 6:16pm and welcomed 295 owners and guest attendees. Maria invited General Manager, Sarah Hannigan to the stage.

Sarah described the WFC ENDS Statement, the guiding path for our work and our business. Whole Foods Co-op is a thriving consumer-owned cooperative. Our Co-op is a steady and solid business that is held up by our staff, and is supported by our shoppers.

State of the Co-op Reports

Fiscal Year 2024 Annual Report

GM Sarah provided the state of the coop: fiscal year 2024 financials and progress toward the ENDS as articulated in the 2024 Annual Report. Highlights include \$22.6 million in sales; over half a million in discounts to Co-op owners and Co-op employees; and \$48,000 in net income (profit). 2024 was a strong and steady year.

The FY2024 Annual Report outlines our financials, but also our impact, which goes above and beyond just selling groceries. Different ways that WFC makes an impact in our community are:

- Fran Skinner Memorial Matching Fund participation
- Investing in staff
- Annual Owner savings
- Community donations and sponsorships
- GIVE! Round-up donations
- Non-Profit support recipients and Grow Local Food Fund recipients
- Community engagement: Co-op classes, events attended or hosted, featured artists
- Local Inventory Purchases and Bioregion Inventory Purchases
- Installation of a 145 solar array on the Denfeld store assembled and installed locally

Current & Upcoming Strategic Priorities

Sarah also provided an overview of the strategic priorities and activities for the year ahead including:

- Co-op Community Impact
- Customer Experience
- Staff Experience
- Co-op Infrastructure
- Finance & Systems

Remarks for the Good and Welfare of the Co-op

Maria invited owners at the meeting to share their questions and comments about Whole Foods Co-op. Questions are not answered at this time. Owner's questions will be answered at a later date.

1. Kristine Osbakken- Would like the monthly \$5 off coupon reinstated because she doesn't purchase many of the items that receive the additional 10% off new owner deal.
2. Jeremiah Peck- Would like to see some new burrito options in the deli!
3. Wayne Pulford- Inquiring about the geographic diversity of the Board of Directors.
4. Jenean Nelson- Requesting spinach in the bulk to avoid purchasing things in the plastic containers.
5. Elizabeth- She has a waste-free lifestyle and would like to see the bulk section expand to have more options.
6. Lynn Anderson- If Whole Foods Co-op plans to expand, please consider Superior, WI!
7. Roxane Dawn- Really enjoys the Wild and Smoky Sandwich in the deli-Wow!
8. Anne Schilling- Inquiring about ordering groceries online to pickup at the store.
9. Lisa Fitzpatrick- Hoping the Whole Foods Co-op will provide the community with more climate change information.
10. Brandon Smith- Introduced himself as an employee of the co-op since 2015 and appreciates the good relationship the co-op has with the Union.
11. Conrad Peck- Enjoys the Explorer Fruit!
12. Did not say name- Was wondering if the co-op could provide food in the community for those receiving medical care.

Election Results

Maria stated that everyone's vote matters and thanked everyone who voted in the most recent Owner Election. In this Co-op election cycle, \$1 was donated to the League of Women Voters for every owner who voted which came to \$499. Maria announced the results of the Owner Elections.

2023 Annual Meeting Minutes

2023 Annual Owner Meeting Minutes were approved.

Board of Directors Election Results

1. Elyse LaCosse – 3-year term
2. Amber Schlater (incumbent) – 3-year term
3. Scott Van Daele (incumbent) – 3-year term

GIVE! 2025 Non-Profit Support Recipients:

During check-out, customers have the option to round-up and donate their spare change. Through the round up, half of the funds are given to GIVE! Non-Profit recipients and the other half are allocated to the Grow Local Food Fund. The 2024 GIVE! Non-Profit Recipients are:

- Boys & Girls Club of the Northland
- Community Action Duluth Seeds of Success Program
- Damiano Center
- Duluth Farm to School
- First Witness Child Advocacy Center
- Human Development Center
- St. Louis River Alliance
- Superior Hiking Trail Association
- Sustainable Farming Association of Minnesota (SFA)

Business Meeting Adjourned at 6:52pm.

GROW LOCAL FOOD FUND PANEL

Business meeting was followed by a non-profit panel discussion featuring

- Amber Sadowski - Life House Executive Director
- Kayla Pridmore - Seeds of Success Program Manager, Community Action Duluth
- Kris Eilers - St. Louis River Alliance Executive Director

Kelly LaCore from the Northern MN office for the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits facilitated the panel discussion. Each of the panelists have received funds through the Give! Round-up program and were asked to share more about the incredible work their organizations are doing and the impact they have in our community.

The evening ended with a drawing for prizes featuring curated co-op products.

- Co-op Merchandise & gift card
- Local MN producers
- Chocolate Lovers bucket
- Dog Treats
- Earth-Friendly cleaning products
- Movie Night Snacks