

MEETING OF THE RISING TIDE BOARD

MAY 13, 2014

The May 13th meeting of the Rising Tide Board was called to order at 5:37 p.m. by President Catherine Walton. Present were

Catherine Walton, President

Kimberly Reed, Interim Vice-President and Secretary

Sarah Matel, Treasurer

Board Members: Beth McPherson, Jon Weislogel and Anna Leavitt

Board Guests: Mary Ellen Barnes and Dana Wilson

Also present were the following Rising Tide employees: Tsewang "Sherpa" Sherpalama, General Manager; Karin Swanson, Wellness Manager and Recorder; Dwight Chamberlain, POS Coordinator.

Catherine welcomed everyone and called for Calendar and Agenda Review. The Board VOTED to accept both as presented.

The Board also VOTED unanimously to accept the Consent Agenda which included acceptance of the April 8th minutes as submitted and the approval of Board Reports C1, C2, and C5. Jon Weislogel supported the investment of Board funds toward Board member training which adds value to the entire membership. Traveling together to CLBD events and other training opportunities also allowed for sharing of ideas and energy along the way. Catherine agreed and mentioned her recent visit to the Blue Hill Co-op which was an informative and enjoyable experience.

Sherpa then presented his General Manager's report. He noted an increase in sales since April 1st of 16.1%. He also reviewed his Food Pantry program and noted the support of staff toward this effort. He has included a draft of the Product Commitment Statement which has the support of our in-store Product Commitment Committee as a draft document. His proposal for a Community Volunteer Program needs further discussion with staff. Sarah questioned whether the Board would need to approve the Food Pantry and Product commitment Statement before implementation/distribution. After discussion about labeling, GMO concerns and ingredient sensitivity in general, the Board accepted Sherpa's report but asked for further review of specific programs and statements before any action would be taken.

Sherpa was then invited to review his B1 Report with the Board. The report is attached in its entirety. Sherpa summarized compliance and non-compliance with respect to the several issues identified in the Bi reporting document. There was considerable discussion around the non-compliance related to

adequate net income. Sarah, as Treasurer, would like to review the report more thoroughly; she felt that there may be need for clarification of some of the language used in the B1 report and requested time to evaluate it. Catherine also requested that Sherpa document compliance or non-compliance immediately at the end of each initial measure identified in all General Manager's Reports. Sherpa also submitted a budget for the second quarter that included corrective action w/r to net income. Sarah noted that the Finance Committee had not had the opportunity to review this plan and asked that Sherpa send a copy to Kent Whitaker as the additional member of the Finance Committee. Sarah will review the B1 Report and bring back to the Board only if material issues raise concern.

Beth McPherson then presented an update on FARMS and the second floor build-out. FARMS is hoping to begin construction on the cabinets, island, and enough of the kitchen to conduct "cooking" classes. She has written a number of additional grants for further support. Rising Tide will be sending out an email soon to request support from their members to assist in the purchase of various appliances.

Sarah presented a brief Finance Committee report. She distributed the Finance Committee Charter for review and will invite PFBF, our new accounting firm, to the June meeting of the Board to provide support during the Board's evaluation of the 2013 Review process. Sarah suggested adding the word "Board" before budget in the 2nd to last paragraph of the Charter. Kim volunteered to put the corrected Finance Committee charter and any others available in the on-line storage files she is creating for safekeeping of Board documents. Sherpa noted that Elya and Dwight were also working on improving the web page and offered their support in this effort. Jon and others expressed gratitude for having a useful and secure place to store documents and retain Board history. In summary, Sarah will clarify the elements of the Board budget with Candy and will bring the Finance Committee charter back to the Board once the Finance Committee's responsibility toward various budget line items in the Board Budget is certain.

The Nominating Committee had no formal report. Catherine confirmed that all Board members had received Thane's retreat report which included a Nominating and Recruitment charter. Catherine read this charter to the Board and will put it on the agenda for review at the June Board meeting. The Board then reviewed the status of potential Board candidates; Jessica LaBonte could not commit; Judy Sandick could not attend this evening's meeting but would like to hear from a Board member. Catherine will email a follow-up note to those individuals who have expressed interest in Board membership over the last months and copy Beth and Jon. Sarah suggested that the Board seat Dana and Mary Ellen so that they can participate in bringing additional members to the Board. Jon noted the value of having prospective candidates meet with the Nominating Committee in order to focus on the type and level of commitment and experience required for effective Board membership. Kim suggested that interested members come to meet the Nominating Committee before attending a Board meeting so that expectations could be aired beforehand.

Jon reported briefly on the efforts of CIF (Community Investment Fund). CIF has sufficient funds to support two community grants. The application has been streamlined and two organizations have expressed interest so far. The deadline for receipt of applications is May 15th and Jon is hopeful that there will be at least two qualified applicants for the two grants by that time.

Anna then reported on her efforts for “getting out the vote” for Board candidates. Catherine has requested support from members in the May Newsletter—soon to be distributed-- and Anna has designed an information sheet for volunteers and will post additional information on the Board bulletin board at the front of the store. She is hoping to get volunteers in on June 3rd to count votes.

Catherine will send out Thane’s report to be sure that everyone has received it so that it can be discussed in the months to come.

New Business included the following volunteers for Board Reporting: C3 Agenda Planning—Anna; C4 Board Meetings—Kim.

Catherine then invited attendees to 2an opening at her Good Supply to honor Huston Dodge’s work on May 23 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. The meeting was adjourned at 7:03; An Executive Session re personnel issues followed.