

**Cooperative Planning Team
Friday February 19, 2010**

Present

- Pam Brown
- Jan Burnikell
- Sharon Deane
- David Parkinson
- Giovanni Spezzacatena
- Julie Thorne

Absent

- Heather Wheating

1. Review agenda

2. Old business

2.1. Completing the Memorandum of Association

2.1.1. The name

We discussed the names which received the most votes in the online survey: *Rain Coast* and *Skookum* and were tied for 20 points, and *Intertidal* was next at 16. Everyone agreed that *Skookum* was the best overall choice, followed by *Rain Coast* and *Intertidal*.

David will submit a name request for these three names in this order:

- *Skookum Food Provisioners' Cooperative*;
- *Rain Coast Food Provisioners' Cooperative*;
- *Intertidal Food Provisioners' Cooperative*.

2.1.2. The rules

We reviewed the amendments to the rules that Jan and David worked on in consultation with Marty Frost of Devco. The amendments mainly fall into the following categories:

- Removal of verbiage/rules having to do with eligible organizations as members (because we have chosen not to allow eligible organizations);
- Removal of verbiage/rules having to do with investment shares, investment shareholders, dividends, and patronage returns (because we are incorporating as a community service cooperative and thus cannot issue investment shares);
- Limitation of joint memberships to no more than two people (because we have chosen to so limit joint memberships);
- Removal of verbiage/rules having to do with shares payable on call (because we have chosen to require that membership shares be paid in full before membership privileges are granted);
- Change in requirements for proxy voting (we have chosen to limit proxy voting to only those members who need to travel to a general meeting by air or water; and no member may carry proxies for more than one other member);
- Change in rule (104) to impose a four-term limit on directors;
- Change in verbiage having to do with means of communication, in order to explicitly add email;
- Change in rules (118) and (130) so that in cases of a tied vote within the board or within a committee of the board the motion will be lost;
- Change in rule (136) to impose a two-term limit on directors holding a particular office;

- Change in rule (141) imposing a limit of \$1000 on the amount that the board may invest without seeking approval of the members;

2.1.3. Review the Memorandum

We very briefly reviewed the Memorandum of Association. The only sections remaining to be filled in are:

- The name;
- The information about the subscribers;

David will send around the Memorandum as it currently stands.

2.2. Other foundational documents

2.2.1. Vision statement

We had the following four sample vision statements submitted to the online survey that we used to vote on the candidate names:

- *Our vision is a community that values both the people and the land.*
- *Making our community a place where if hard times come no one need go hungry.*
- *Our vision is a flourishing community with a strong and reliable local food network.*
- *Crops outside, food in the pantry, a meal on the table; friends, family, and neighbours to share with.*

The feeling was that the third candidate was the strongest, although we made a minor revision so that it now reads:

- *A thriving community with a strong and reliable local food network.*

We adopted this vision statement by consensus.

2.2.2. Mission statement

We talked about what a mission statement needs to accomplish and what are some of the aspects of our planned work which we want to highlight. Rather than have a long discussion, we agreed that David would send out the notes that he and Gianni had put together in email, so that people can start thinking about what they would like to see in our mission statement.

2.2.3. Values & principles

We looked again at the International Co-operative Alliance's *Statement on the Co-operative Identity* for inspiration. We agreed that it was very close to what we could use as a statement of values and principles, but Brownie will make some suggested changes so that it is more appropriate for our particular circumstances.

3. New business

3.1. Replacing Heather

Heather Wheating, one of our founding members, has had to step away from this work for personal reasons. We discussed whether we needed to replace her and agreed that for the time being we're fine working as a group of six.

3.2. Projects

We talked about two main projects: the Fruit Tree Project and the potato patch.

For the former, Sharon and David agreed to continue talking with Anne Michaels to see how that might work. We had a preliminary discussion of the consequences of absorbing all aspects of the

Fruit Tree Project into the cooperative, and agreed that we will have to negotiate this with sensitivity, since it has traditionally been entirely free and open to the community. If the whole thing, or even aspects of it, begin to be limited only to members of the cooperative, then people might feel excluded. We'll need to work carefully to be sure that people understand the advantages of belonging to the cooperative, and we may well want to ensure that non-members can still participate somehow in gleaning.

Sharon and David will work with Anne to develop some kind of plan of action, with a time-line, list of equipment needed, tasks, activities, etc.

The potato patch project was interesting as a way of getting something going immediately. We'll need no more than an acre of soil with access to water, preferably within City limits.

We agreed to work together to put out an announcement and call for land and participants to be sent out to the email list of the Food Security Project and possibly other venues.

3.3. Policies

3.3.1. Corporate donations

We had the beginning of a conversation about the question of corporate donations and sponsorships, specifically with respect to whether we will accept donations from any corporations, or whether we wish to remain independent of certain sources of money and in-kind support.

This is important because we are certainly going to find ourselves in situations where some extra income could make a real difference. But we might want to give ourselves principles that we consider inviolable, so that when those opportunities arise we know where we stand.

We agreed that we would all look for examples of not-for-profit organizations with strong principles of financial independence and use them as the basis for a fuller discussion of this question.

3.3.2. Memberships in other organizations

This item was tabled.

3.3.3. Other policies

This item was tabled.

3.4. Publicity; sending the right message

3.4.1. Enlisting members

We decided that we need to wait until we have our name settled before we can start to get the word out more widely about our existence and planned activities.

3.5. Co-operative Development Initiative funding

There was no update.

4. Next meeting

Because the Friday two weeks hence is the Ivan E. Coyote event at Brooks High School, we decided to meet on Monday March 8 at 5:30 PM at David and Gianni's house.