

Oneota Community Co-op
Minutes for Regular Board Meeting
February 21, 2025, 6:00pm, Co-op Classroom

Board Members Present: Brennan Allsworth, Nathan Dietzenbach, Bill Iverson, Bee Lutz, Piper Wood

Board Members Absent: Hannah Breckbill, Carl Peterson

GM Present: Nate Furler

Co-op Staff: Nicki Sanas, Angie Graham

Member/Owners Present: none

Wood called the meeting to order at 5:59pm.

Agenda Reviewed. Dietzenbach added discussion about voting methods. *Motion by Allsworth, second by Dietzenbach, to approve agenda.*

Board Learning. Review G7, G8, G9, G10, E1.

G7 needs pronoun changes.

Discussion about G8.2.1 - “On a monthly basis, the Board Vice President shall ensure the results of both the GM and Board policy monitoring, including potential topics for policy discussion, and are compiled and kept in a summary form for GM evaluation and Board self-evaluation and learning.” The layout of the Google Drive did not make obvious this duty fell on the vice president. *Dietzenbach will organize the folders to make duties more apparent.*

G9.2 Has confusing language. The board members will have better phrasing prepared for the next meeting.

G10.3 states that the board should not utilize staff time for more than a reasonable amount of hours per year. This has not been applicable for years of board structure, and the board is interested in trimming this statement to keep the policy in line with reality.

E1. The board discussed the current mission. There is interest in refining the mission, but the board may not pursue changes at this time. The board would like to include affordability in the mission if it is revised.

Minutes

Motion by Allsworth, seconded by Iverson to approve minutes of January’s meeting.

Policy Monitoring

Motion by Iverson, seconded by Allsworth to report compliance on D.

L9. GM succession is laid out: In the event of sudden loss of GM services from Nate Furler, the succession would be first Niki Sanness, and second Angie Graham. *Motion by Dietzenbach, seconded by Allsworth to report compliance on L9.*

L5. Slight dip in reported net income for Q4 of 2024 due to selling of the hot bar deli island. Removing the island from the books affected the accounting. Without that loss, the co-op would have been well above the budgeted income for the quarter and year. The co-op still ended the year with a positive income. This causes non compliance for L5.2

Member loans became current. The co-op does not have liquidity to fully pay back member loans that are going to become due early this year. This was budgeted for. The co-op plans to pay back the budgeted amount and take a loan to cover the rest. This causes non compliance for L5.3.

Motion by Dietzenbach, seconded by Allsworth to accept L5 report, including noncompliance for L5.2 and L5.3.

GM Report

Good Q1 of 2025 so far, up nearly 9% from last year over the same period.

Bulk has been losing sales year over year for about a decade. Board leadership decided to better reflect that reality and not budget an increase in sales in that department.

Many staff members have been out for the last three weeks due to cold and flu.

Update on the loss of refrigeration. There was a pin-hole leak in the refrigerant line. With Nate out on vacation, alerts did not reach the proper channels. Additional alerts have been implemented. Insurance will reimburse \$25,000 which covers most of the loss of goods and the cost of new refrigerant. Staff and managers handled the situation extremely well.

Nate will attend the NCG spring meeting from April 8 to April 13 in Washington, DC.

Board/Member Linkage Committee

Motion by Dietzenbach, seconded by Iverson to table presentation of plan by the Board/Member Linkage Committee until next meeting.

Board Election

Paper ballots have been mailed out to those who only have mailing addresses. Digital voting will start on March 1. Paper ballots will be available in the store starting March 1.

Matthew Nahan rescinded his candidacy for the board.

Board Training

Board training resources from a recent class, Financial Basics for Directors, by the University of Wisconsin Center for Cooperatives were shared with the board.

Board Candidate Meet and Greet

Five of the six candidates attended as well as four board members and three member-owners. A concern was raised that there was no banner or signage indicating the meet and greet was occurring in the store. The board really appreciated that all of the candidates were stepping up for service and would keep all of the candidates in mind for committee work.

Treasurer Report

Breckbill had prepared the treasurer report for board finances of 2024. The board reviewed the report and had no comments.

Adjournment

Next meeting on March 25 at 6:00pm

A co-op potluck will take place on March 20 at 6:00pm

Motion by Dietzenbach, seconded by Allsworth, to adjourn at 7:50pm.