

Nebraska Food Coop Meeting

December 11, 2013

Present: Beth, Kevin, Libby, Randy, Lanette, Roy, Stephanie and Liz and Caryl attended as guests.

4:38 pm Meeting called to order by Roy, acting as chair

Roy asked if there are any additions to the agenda: Roy has a request for the NFC Board that he will add.

New Business:

Budget Discussion: Randy discussed the Financial Report observed that they had 39K to operate. Roy feels the accounting revision to the software has paid off and things are going better. Beth agreed that it is much easier for her and the consumers – friendly software.

Roy mentioned we pay approximately 3K/month and 1,500/cycle for wages, gas, and vehicle maintenance. Discussed what it costs to ship special orders (special orders are non-coop items) and is there a potential side business for Kevin to deliver these products.

Roy asked what function does NFC provided and why are the producers as not committed to NFC. Randy asked Lanette how the Coop could be more beneficial to her. She said the Coop is a supplemental market and if NFC could deliver to her bigger customer such as Tomato-Tomato

Beth talk to Nick the owner of Over Easy restaurant: <http://www.overeasyomaha.com/> located on 168th & Q in Omaha. He shared his idea to work with other Omaha restaurants to source local foods and NFC could be a supplier.

NFC average cycle breaks even per cycle. Roy asked how often we should run our delivery cycles. Randy asked what did we gain or what would happen if we did not have a cycle – he said maybe we deliver once a month frozen items only. Randy prefers volume but feels that will limit customer base. Beth said the restaurants need twice a week. Roy feels when we will reach this point where we can deliver twice a week. Beth says since we are delivering more people are buying more. Randy says NFC will get into the black before we go out of business. Beth feels good we have an employee, truck and can make repairs. Lanette asked why we are doing better – no longer have the Wolbach site, left Jane's and have relocated to the Micro-sites. Beth said we were at one time trying to more than the Eastern NFC Coop now we are more focused. Roy talked about how we have trust. Stephanie agrees with the trust issue with the micro sites and we may have to change our schedule with them. Libby said the Thursday deliver between 5-7 pm works and it is not that hard to manage.

Libby motioned that after January 1, 2014 NFC delivers will go to every other week. Stephanie seconded. Four members voted yes and Lanette voted no. Motioned passed.

Kevin is okay with his hours as long as we have cycles every two weeks.

Randy asked why Lanette voted against the motion. She would like to see monies spent on a general manager to get us to the next level of production. Discussion pursued. Roy interjected with a request (he applying for a fellowship run by George Soros) to build a Gift economy would like to have support of NFC. He recommended that Caryl act as general manager at this time because she is temporarily between jobs. Caryl said Roy had mentioned the GM job but she feels she may not be able to make the connections to restaurants and other groups because of her remote location. Caryl feels she could offer some of her skills to help NFC but not on a full time basis. She thinks the GM needs to be committed to the Coop for at least two years; she is willing to work part-time but would have to leave if a full-time position comes available. Libby mentions the work Beth and Kevin do will need to be coordinated with the GM for support. Caryl said the GM needs to work with board and advisors and the position needs to be paid – NFC should offer a living wage. She wants the board to identify their priorities for this person to do. Randy suggested Caryl consider work on selling Wolbach building as it is a liability and sell the contents of the building and deed it over to the city so we no longer have a liability.

Motion by Randy Wattermann to retain Caryl Guisinger's services to manage the divestiture of the Wolbach building, real and personal assets. Procedures of divestments to be shared 50/50 between NFC and Caryl Guisinger. Seconded by Stephanie. Motion passed four yes and Roy abstained.

Next meeting will be January 30th – 4:00 pm Thursday at Liz's house.

New Business:

Need new board members and officers. Beth suggested a nominating committee to fill the positions on NFC.

Libby will ask Yvonne Wilder, Joy Lindholm

Liz will talk Lori ask her to come to the next meeting.

Randy motioned Liz Sarno to serve on the NFC board and seconded by Stephanie. Five voted yes motioned passed. Randy motioned that Liz will serve as secretary and seconded by Stephanie. Five voted yes motion passed.

Beth will email board and let us know who at the National Parks Service to contact about coming to speak to their members about the Coop.

Roy called the meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm