

Minutes April 16, 2018; meeting called to order at 7:15pm

Board Members Present – Chris, Marshall, Stephen Gasteyer, Steve Arnold; Staff: Peggy;

Guest: Anbareen – Vista Americorp Volunteer; Kiyuwa – Anbareen’s friend – board of Student Association of Cooperatives...visiting from California

Introductions

Staff update

1. Not much to report
2. So far still have about \$149,000 –
3. But have 110 owners of 500 owners have so far asked for their deposit back
4. Question of whether to retain liquor license for several hundred dollars. Was acknowledged that if we gave it up we might never get it back. And we could see selling local beer and wine, etc.
 - a. Motion made to hold onto our liquor license, seconded, approved unanimously
5. Peggy said that the landlord on our current administrative office wants us to sign a 6-month lease. Steve Arnold motioned that we should sign the lease, Chris seconded. Board discussion then it was tabled.
6. EMBA is working, but hasn’t gotten back to us with detailed response...
7. Moving Forward Committee – Peggy, John, and Michelle met with Nate Scramlin, Mid-Michigan Coordinator of Michigan Economic Development Corp. A) Said that we might could apply for startup funding through community revitalization through the Public Spaces and Community Places program – hypothetically if we had a location that we wanted to fix up for \$150,000, if we come up \$50,000, they would hook us with “Patronicity” that could help us lead \$50,000, and MEDC would grant \$50,000. Peggy, Michelle, John will write up a more detailed summary of the meeting for the share drive. B) Tom Fahrenbach will hook us up with the City of East Lansing Farm Market folks to see if there are possibilities of a collaboration-possibly joining forces... Should we collaborate, this would be seen as a priority for MEDC funding. C) Discussion of building space – 800 square feet space off Delta Street in East Lansing. The board agreed that we should look into the building; but make sure that we don’t foreclose on the possibility of the place next to Altus.
8. Building updates – there is interest in looking into the location next to Altu’s. The place has a lot of pluses in terms of accessibility to East Lansing and Lansing.
 - . Chris B. suggested that we hold off on signing a new lease on the current admin offices until we have looked at new buildings – specifically the building next to Altu’s restaurant. Peggy will remind us if we need to make an emergency decision.
9. Outreach committee – Stephen and Marshall will meet Wednesday and finalize survey in Qualtrics and send out to the fifty (give or take) farmers. We will likely follow up with calls. The point will be get the basic data about interest and capacity from local producers.
10. Annual meeting (Sunday, April 29, 2018) – On Google Drive there is an annual meeting folder. Board Members will be take different parts on the Annual meeting agenda. Chris introduction; Marshall Annual Year in Review and Agenda; John financial update; Stephen G. Farm Market Project Update; Michelle Board Election Update; Stephen A. Owner and Supporter Input. Peggy will be updating the agenda. All materials for the meeting are stored in the Shared Drive. All board members will be encouraged to review and approve materials. There was a discussion about whether we actually need a PowerPoint.

Steve A. asked whether we wanted to get more people to the meeting; maybe we want to send a postcard. Or at least send an email to all members to encourage members to participate.

a. Kiomia suggested a poster with an online template, and asked if non members can attend annual meeting (yes)

b. Motion to welcome new membership. Seconded. Unanimously approved.

11. CCMA meeting in Portland, OR – Marshall has a scholarship to attend, but would need to get some funding. If ELFCO could put \$500 toward flight. Peggy wondered if we could have Anbo attend and think about how we could get information about other coops. May look into another “Bauer’s Grant” – Motioned that Anbareen would represent ELFCO at CCMA.
12. Matters arising – Laura Delind and others -- Lansing Grown Label is an opportunity for collaboration with ELFCO
13. Anbareen mentioned a \$20,000 Coop Development Grant from Berkeley Housing Coop for coop development. She will work with staff and board members to put together proposal.
14. Meeting adjourned at 9:15pm