

Nominations & Member Engagement Committee Meeting Minutes

Friday, April 5th 4-6 pm

Attendance: Jay, Christopher, Sofie

New Commitments:

- Jay should start making proposed agendas a week in advance and sending them out on the last Friday of the month.
- Jay will send Chris the notes about our last meeting from this meeting.
- Christopher will draft email Peter and let him know that we didn't nominate him, the Board didn't nominate him, he didn't submit signatures 45 days before the commencement of elections per the bylaws, he's not on the ballot. After Christopher gets feedback from the rest of the committee, he will send it to Peter.
 - Christopher will cc elections@ and board@ when he sends that email.
- Jay is going to respond to Peter's info request and check in with the Board about asking Peter to stop submitting info requests.

Agenda:

- Succession
- Peter Update & Next Steps

Succession

- Sofie is leaving pretty soon, maybe!
- What questions do we have about succession? What things do we need to get our affairs in order?
- Jay should start making proposed agendas a week in advance and sending them out on the last Friday of the month.
- Maybe we should have another NMEC meeting soon after they start to get up to speed.
- Update our charter?
 - Does it reflect what we are doing? Are there things missing or things that we don't really do?
- Creating a structure for feedback for committee members
 - As a tool for self reflection or to hold each other accountable
 - Maybe we don't have a form, but a time to reflect together on how we're doing

Peter

- Peter submitted an information request. It requires the NMEC to approve them. Peter only sent them to Jay, who should have forwarded them to us. Jay highlighted the parts of the policy that are reasons why we wouldn't fulfill an information request.

Jenna,

More than a month ago I was banned from the co-op property. This meant that I lost my Farmer's Market job of the last three years. It also means that I cannot shop at the co-op or attend Board meetings.

Applying the information-request policy of the Board I want the following information:

- 1) What is the name of the committee that decided on a trespass order against me?
- 2) All the non-confidential portions of that committee's minutes in which the trespass order was decided.

My intention is to understand the decision process that led to the suppression of my owner participation.

I do not believe that I am requesting any information that can be regarded as confidential. As such, I believe there is no reasonable limitation on the sharing of this information.

I will happily pay the 25cents per page. I will happily pay the \$15/hr access fee.

I currently have no stable address. As such I would prefer to receive the requested information by email.

thank you
Peter Siracusa

- There wasn't a committee that made the decision and there are no minutes about it.
- Peter followed up on April 1st asking Jay to remind the committee that the grievance procedure guidelines are not a part of the legal reasons that you would deny someone information.
- Peter is making requests in a way that would qualify as harassment or annoying, so maybe by the policy we don't have to fulfill them.
 - Examples of purposes that are not proper or germane to a owner's interest include, without limitation:
 - a. aiding a competitor of Coop;
 - b. harassing, annoying or embarrassing the Coop; or
 - c. taking action that is hostile or adverse to the Coop.
- Discussed the Peter situation and what the history of his information requests are.
- What is the 86 policy?
 - Are there times when a decision to 86 someone should be made by a committee?

- What do with this information request?
 - We can give him an answer to this question.
 - Let him know that he has taken up enough time and we have given him plenty of space to resolve his issues and we won't be responding to further information requests.
- We should engage the Board on this issue because of the legal questions.
- The Board is considering revoking Peter's membership but the Board isn't sure what the legal implications are.
 - They are consulting with a lawyer.
- Because of the legal questions, maybe we should just respond to Peter's information request and then ask the Board to weigh in or refund his share.
- Out of the Peter situation, we should gain a clearer process or more information to prevent this kind of thing in the future.
- Maybe there should be a way for people to appeal an 86 decision. But not for Peter now -- just in general.
 - Could that include this committee?
- Discussed Peter on the ballot
- We didn't take minutes last time because we were walking and it was a very short meeting. But:
 - We met on March 1st. We were walking and did not take minutes.
 - We decided to not nominate Peter, and to offer him the option of collecting signatures. We decided to ask the Board about that course of action because it was out of the ordinary. That was more than 45 days before the start of elections and Peter would have had about two weeks to collect signatures if we told him he had that option. We didn't tell him because there was a lack of clarity from the Board about how to proceed and the way the bylaws are written we are not obligated to tell him that he needed to use the signature process.
 - It would have been better if we had told Peter right after that meeting that we weren't nominating him.
 - Signed, Jay, Sofie, and Christopher
- If a situation came up in the future where we didn't want to nominate someone who submitted their materials:
 - We should give the Board the option to nominate them (remind them that they have that option)
 - Let the candidate know as soon as possible that we aren't nominating them.
 - If it's before the 45 days before the commencement of elections, let them know that they have the option to collect signatures.
 - Have that signature deadline clearer in the nominations materials.
- Also, we should make it clearer that when people fill out the nomination materials, they are asking to be nominated by the Board or the NMEC.
- Section 4.3 - Nominations, election and terms. Patron directors may be nominated by the Board, by the nominations committee or by petition signed by at least twenty-five owners

and submitted to the Co-op at least forty-five days before commencement of election of directors.

- If we decide not to nominate someone, we need to tell them asap that they have the signature option (a week before applications close), and be clearer that that's an option from the beginning.

Ballot Counting

- Christopher won't be able to come until 3ish because of another important meeting

Bike Rack:

- Annual Meeting
- The End of Christopher's term
 - What can Member-Owners get out of being on this committee?
- Reflect on process so far
 - Communication
 - Create a document that is "How to Do the Elections"
- Committee member eval process
 - Feedback process
 - As a part of updating our charter