

Co-Op Members For Fairness Virtual Town Hall Meeting
March 31, 2021, 19:00 hrs – 21:00 hrs (approx.)

Agenda:

- Approval of Agenda
- Treasurer's report
- Review last minutes
- Chair's report
- Membership & donation form online.
- Recruitment of Board candidates
- Correspondence
- Possible & present candidates
- Upcoming AGM date

Discussion:

1. Appointment & approval of chairperson
2. Agenda approved.
3. Treasurer's Report – not available
4. Review of minutes from last full meeting, (March 3rd) by MS
5. Chair's Report:
 - a. Membership & donation online
 - i. Has been tested and it works except for issuing of receipts for donations.
 - ii. MM will pick up membership buttons from RB and mail them out, if RB can provide access to names and addresses.
 - iii. Motion: get additional buttons manufactured at a Unifor worksite printing service; suggest 100 buttons to be made. Passed
6. Recruitment for Board Candidates
 - a. Members reported on their candidate search efforts
 - b. Four board positions
 - c. Potential Board Candidates
 - i. Tajinder Grewal, former provincial NDP candidate, interested and presented his request for our support.

Mike moves that the Coop Members For Fairness endorse and support Tajinder Grewal as candidate for the board of directors of the Saskatoon Cooperative Association for the upcoming AGM. Passed.

7. Correspondence
 - a. No response from Addley to letter sent March 4th asking for clarification on i) his declared interest in "increasing communication opportunities with all co-op members" since the track record indicates it does not mean meeting with

members or replying to written communications; and 2) the board practice of not meeting with groups.

8. Saskatoon Co-op Association AGM

- a. Virtual AGM has been announced: Tuesday May 18, 2021.
 - i. Meeting Room opens 6:30 pm, meeting called to order 7:00 pm.
 - ii. Register by May 1, 2021
- b. Next Meeting: 7 April 2021

9. Adjournment

CM4F Resolutions for CM4F AGM

Democratic Control (AGM Voting)

Whereas:

One of the foundational co-operative principles states that "Co-operatives have democratic membership control with equal voting rights based on one member one vote in the decision-making process",

And Whereas:

Currently only about 350 Saskatoon Co-op members out of approximately 115,000 total members are able to vote for the selection of the board of directors and on policy resolutions because of the one-night AGM meeting and the limitations of venue size. (Less than 1/2 of one percent are able to vote),

And Whereas:

The Co-operatives Act (1996) enables changes in the Co-op Bylaws to allow this process to be improved,

Therefore be it Resolved:

That the board of directors is requested to investigate alternatives to the election of directors and the passing of resolutions and, at the AGM in 2022 propose an amendment to the bylaws of the Co-operative to implement a democratically supervised and transparent voting process for members to vote for the selection of board members and on resolutions-, by means other than or in addition to in-person voting at a physical AGM.

This will require a change to the bylaws of the Saskatoon Co-operative Association. Only the members have the power to make changes to the bylaws of the co-operative.

Autonomy and Independence

Whereas:

One of the foundational co-operative principles states that "Co-operatives are locally owned, as autonomous, independent democratic organizations",

And Whereas:

There is concern among the membership that too much control of our co-op , including both the policy and management functions has been transferred or allowed to be taken over by Federated Cooperatives Limited,

Therefore be it Resolved that the board is requested to review and renegotiate the current management agreement between Saskatoon Co-op and FCL to secure membership control by way of the elected board of the policy-making function and restrict FCL to its intended management function and report to the 2022 AGM on the results of that review and renegotiation .

Democratic Control

Whereas:

One of the foundational co-operative principles states that "Co-operatives have democratic membership control with equal voting rights based on one member one vote in the decision-making process",

And Whereas:

One of the basic tenets of democratic organizations and societies is that elections be carried out in a transparent manner,

And Whereas:

All reasonable measures should be taken in any election to eliminate any doubt that the vote results represent the will of the voters,

Therefore be it Resolved:

That the director elections provide an opportunity for every candidate in the director elections to appoint a ballot scrutineer of their choosing, if they so desire.

Further be it Resolved:

That the individual vote totals for each candidate be announced as part of the election results at the Annual General Meeting.

Further be it Resolved:

That the services of an outside accounting firm be retained to conduct the counting of the ballots for the director elections,

This will require changes to the bylaws of the Saskatoon Co-operative Association. Only the members have the power to make changes to the bylaws of the co-operative.

Reporting, Communication and Co-operative Education

Whereas:

One of the foundational co-operative principles states that "Co-operatives provide education, training and information to their members, their workers and the general public",

And Whereas:

Concerned Co-op members feel they have been marginalized and are not being consulted or adequately informed by our elected board of directors on most policy matters,

And Whereas:

The elected co-op board has allowed FCL, the hired management group, to dictate policy decisions to the elected board and speak for the board,

And Whereas:

When information is requested by the members from the board, the board adopts a defensive bunker mentality, defaulting their reporting, communication and education duties to management by having the CEO go beyond his mandate to speak for the board,

Therefore be it Resolved:

That our elected co-op board implement a new, effective, transparent consultation and communication strategy with the membership. Sufficient resources need to be allocated to engage board members in proactive dialogue with the membership, such as holding regular reporting meetings, posting board member contact numbers, answering calls and talking to members and the public.

Further be it Resolved:

That a qualified education and member relations employee be allocated the required resources and assigned to implement and manage a comprehensive co-operative education program for workers, members and the public on the theme "Making a profit while committed to our co-operative values - Our Business Advantage".

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