

# By the Bushel Community Food Co-op



Emergency Board Meeting Minutes  
Held at 654 Park Street North, Peterborough, Ontario K9H 4S3  
9am, Saturday, October 31, 2009

Emergency Meeting Topic: Winter Basket Decision

Chair: Linda Slavin

Present: Sue Prentice, Paula Anderson, Russ Christianson, Gisele Roy,  
Sarah Lawson, Natalie Napier

1. Russ' Pay

- Russ has elected not to receive the \$775 on top of the grant he received for the business plan, because he wants to support By the Bushel
- the board thanks Russ for his support

2. Presentation of three budget scenarios by Sue: compares the profit and loss projections for cancelling winter baskets, providing them for 3 months, and providing them for 7 months. See Appendix for scenarios.

Discussion

- Sarah: we need to have a plan so that we can communicate to customers in advance of the proposed start for winter baskets
- Russ: need to keep customers happy so they'll come back next year, keep the co-op as financially healthy as possible
- Paula: feels that the consumer wants the basket, and that if there is anything we can do to follow through on our obligations we should be committed to doing so
- Russ: where would extra food go in option 1?
  - Sue: We would buy it from farmers and could donate it to the shelter (unless Farmers want to take it elsewhere)
  - Russ: What are the decision-making factors?
    - a. Fiduciary responsibility
    - b. Transparency: In light of our standing commitment to winter basket consumers, we want to be as fair and open as possible
      - Sue: there will be a change to what we promised either way; thinks our consumers are prepared to be flexible
    - c. Want to keep the trust and goodwill of producers
    - d. Make sure there's no waste, that someone benefits from the food
    - e. Consider reputation of the co-op: think about the future
    - f. Practice time management: we have a number of goals over the next few weeks; how do we make sure not to do anything poorly?
- Natalie: doing just 3 or 4 baskets can be an affirming act because it shows we're trying but we have room to grow, which is why we needed a co-op in the first place
- Gisele: uncomfortable with her storage options for providing in the later months, but would feel better about selling her food to the co-op than elsewhere
- we could do the baskets out of the church kitchen and not the gym (only \$25, not \$100)
- Paula: we still haven't considered all the options to decrease expenditures, eg: Russ doesn't want to be paid, Paula doesn't want her top-up, and we haven't used our producer insurance

-Sarah: doesn't want to scramble to get everything and be disorganised, is still reeling from having learned only days ago that all but 2 producers have less than what they promised; concerned that we've run out of time to source more food

BREAK

Motion: Sarah and Sue will contact our consumer members, Paula and Sarah the producer members, and announce a change to our winter basket plan. In order to work with the produce that our producers *have* been able to grow this year and in order to best meet our commitments to support producers, provide for consumers, share the risk, and grow sustainably as a co-op, we will provide three winter baskets of a \$60 value. Those who have paid in full will receive a pro-rated refund.

-m/s: NN, GR, CARRIED unanimously

-Paula agreed to accept her top-up

Motion to adjourn (NN)

ADJOURNED 10:07am