



## Board Meeting Minutes

January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017 6:30-8:30pm

Attending: Melissa Borsting (ED), Neil Subhash (board), Meredith Molli (board), Claire Foster (Secretary), Hannah Cavendish-Palmer (President), Baj Kochar (board), Christeena Marzolf (Director at Large), Doug Teakell (VP), Nancy Marshall (Treasurer), Erin Erickson (board)

### Call to Order

Approval of minutes from Dec. – vote approved with one abstention

### Introductions

Director's report (Melissa):

Seed exchange upcoming

EFP estimates complete for infrastructure improvements, reconsidering how to prioritize projects

Next meeting we will set aside some time for brainstorming about driving traffic and sales at the CFM

County is asking if Seattle Alliance wants to use one of the three Burns property parcels (south of Duvall city center) for subleasing to farmers to satisfy the MOU signed after the Tall Chief award. There is a philosophical objection that the county is inefficient at buying and reselling land to other organizations, and that it seems somewhat inappropriate to favor one organization over others without an RFP process. Interested to know what the goals of any potential partnership would be for the Tilth Alliance, but we are currently willing to continue exploring options without commitment. More info on the MOU and the ag commissioners' position at Thurs Feb 9<sup>th</sup> Ag Commission meeting.

Treasurer's report (Nancy): Cash on hand \$65,000 at end of Dec., budget broke even for 2016.

**2017 Auction** is May 20<sup>th</sup> at Carnation Farms. Kicking off our sponsor and donation recruitment (Claire): Passed out sponsorship procurement forms and letters and item procurement forms and letters to start acquiring items. Next month will have tickets for sale and next week will have a link to the event spreadsheet for tracking donation requests.

Strategic Planning update (Baj): **[Remember the retreat on March 4<sup>th</sup>!]** feedback gathered on interview process so far. Please review Libby's transcripts to assure she captured what you felt was important. More questionnaires will go out electronically, as well as another one

for CFM shoppers. Meredith is heading up non-member farmer interviews and covers: what do they think we do? Educate on what we do. Find out what we can do for them, encouraging them to reach out when something comes up that we or our members might help with, how do you network with others, are you involved in the CFM, who do you go to for help, etc.

Processing Facility Update (Melissa/Baj): Baj has detailed ideas for what we'd like included in the business plan, including a lot of hard data on specific products, specific processing options, specific potential buyers. Possible suggestion to have her partner with a student proficient in the hard numbers to help her get the data we need.

PTO/Holiday policy for staff (Melissa): Proposing to offer two weeks of paid time off and 8 floating holidays, prorated for part time employees. Melissa will double check that these guidelines meet legal requirements that changed last Fall. Melissa will then email the final draft of the proposal for email vote.

Electing Executive Committee: Claire, Hannah, Christeena, Meredith, Nancy proposed as a slate- unanimously approved.

Finalizing Budget (Melissa): clarified a few questions, budget vote passed with one abstention. Discussed how we can communicate better between ourselves about a year's worth of financial data.

Updates from partners (WID, SVFC, KC Ag Commission)

Pike Place market: Leigh works with Hmong farmers and connecting with urban community; ideas about launching an urban community outreach event with a speaker and perhaps other partners to develop an "Urban Farmland Defense League."

T-shirt ideas: Hannah has fielded a graphic designer to help create designs

Adjourn/Late Happy Hour!

***Next meeting: February 16<sup>th</sup>, SVT Office. 6:30-8:45pm.***