

MAC Meeting Minutes 5/27/26

Present: Alex McIntyre, Erin Grant, Jessica Gillis, Noa Kauanoë, Robin Jones, Heiko Heisermann, Jocelyn Silsby, Lydia Cox, Leah Aspen, Karen Folger, Rosa Adams, Aleah Lorenz, Ginger Oppenheimer, Dan Lukaczer, Holly O'Neil, Annabelle Wesley

Absent: Nathan Chapman

Welcome, Introductions, Agenda Review & Check-in

Consent Agenda

- April MAC Minutes
- April Board Minutes

Approved by consensus.

Select Committee Chair

- Each year the Board committees select their Chair. It has to be a Board member.
- Erin has been the MAC Chair for two years. She enjoyed serving but would like to pass the torch to long time MAC member, Alex McIntyre.
- A proposal for Alex McIntyre to be Chair.

Approved by consensus.

Board Retreat

- The Board and Leadership Team met in early May for the annual Board Retreat. There was a financial training, an update on progress toward the Business Plan goals, and a lengthy discussion of what local looks like and how to enhance local storytelling.
- May's Community Shopping Day raised \$2,847.03 for Community and sandwiches Together (CAST). CAST is a fully volunteer-run program serving simple, nourishing meals to the community since 1999.

Membership Events

- The Business Plan has MAC organizing 6 events this year
- The summer event will be a vendor tour. The Co-op sells Twin Sisters Creamery cheese, so it is a way to introduce the product to our members. The tour would include a behind-the-scenes look at the cheesemaking process, an overview of how business got started which would be a window into a local maker, and the chance to sample cheese.
- We will schedule two tours with 15 people each. If it is successful and there is a lot of interest, we can offer a tour another time. We will try out an afternoon and morning time to see how they work for our membership and hopefully capture some attendees who have been unable to attend our evening events.
 - July 16 at 4 pm
 - July 24 at 10 am

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- We will charge \$5 to hopefully help enforce people to attend. The funds will be donated to Twin Sisters Creamery. We can cover the cost if it is prohibitable for anyone.

Safe Streets Bellingham Member Advocacy Request

- People attend the co-op by bikes. We want our shoppers to be safe. Drivers want everyone to be safe too.
- The proposal was well thought out with a lot of research sited.
- The city is getting bigger. It is aligned with our Sustainable Community Strategic Plan goal.
- No concerns were mentioned.

MAC recommends the Board endorses Safe Street Bellingham Advocacy Campaign.

Plant Based Treaty Member Advocacy Request

- MAC heard comments from management around concerns for supporting the treaty which included:
 - The Plant Based Treaty is too narrowly focused for our Co-op. We have always focused on providing cleaner and local alternatives for every diet instead of pushing a single diet as better than others.
 - Culturally it excludes native practices. The ocean plays an important role in Indigenous culture.
 - Overall, it isn't very inclusive.
- A Sustainable Community is a Strategic Plan goal of the Co-op's. Incorporating more of a plant-based diet can support the environment, but we do want to give our customers options. Massive factory farms do impact the environment. Regenerative agriculture and farming are important practices. The Co-op can serve an educational role around regenerative farming.
- The treaty is worldwide. We should focus our efforts locally.
- MAC found pros within the treaty but ultimately agreed with management's concerns.

MAC does not recommend an endorsement to the Board.

Next Meeting: June 24, 2026