

MAC Meeting Minutes 8/26/26

Present: Alex McIntyre, Jessica Gillis, Noe Kauanoë, Heiko Heisermann, Jocelyn Silsby, Lydia Cox, Leah Aspen, Rosa Adams, Ginger Oppenheimer, Lisa Frank, Holly O'Neil, Annabelle Wesley

Absent: Erin Grant, Robin Jones, Dan Lukaczer

Welcome, Introductions, Agenda Review & Check-in

Consent Agenda

- June MAC Minutes
- June Board Minutes

Approved by consensus.

Board Report

- The Board had a Study & Engagement on the Non-Ultra Processed Food Verification Program. Food is healthier when it is made from simple, natural ingredients processed in wholesome ways without a lot of additives.
- July and August's Community Shopping Days raised over \$2,600 for North Cascades Institute and Bellingham Farmer's Market Association.
- The 2027 Shopping Days Application will close August 28.

Outreach Report

- We recently launched a Jar Library to provide free jars to shoppers for bulk shopping. We are asking shoppers to donate their used jars with secure matching lids and no labels. We'll take them and sanitize them. It is a sustainability initiative and aligns with our mission to cut down on single use plastic.
- An events page was created to highlight Co-op happenings and sponsored events to engage members and highlight how the Co-op is supporting the community.
- In celebration of Eat Local Month, we are hosting a party on September 2nd at Aslan Depot for the release of our collab North Forest Pilsner. \$1 from every Aslan beer sold will be donated to the Co-op's Farm Fund.
- Supplement sale runs August 26 – September 1.
- The member bulk sale will be mid-September.
- We are working on planning the holiday season.
- We have been engaging with the community through tabling at various events in the community, including the Bellingham Farmers Market and a Cordata neighborhood event.

Community Shopping Days (CSD) Application Review

- Per the policies, we ask that members have attended three meetings during the year to participate in the CSD process.
- After the application process closes, the committee will receive the applications and tools for reviewing the materials.
- We aim to select a well-balanced slate.

Member Engagement Events

- The Twin Sisters Creamery tours were well attended. Members were excited to gather and learn more about a local vendor. People were engaged and asked questions. We received feedback after the first session, which made the second session more engaging.
- MAC member, Dan Lukaczer, has drafted a proposal for an October member event around Fiber, Food, Fermentation, and the Microbiome. We will aim to make the session interactive.
- Potential other member engagement events:
 - Cascadia Mushroom talk
 - Wreath-making event
 - Holiday events in store
 - Emphasis on our community giving
 - Snowflake making station
 - Live music

Consumer Cooperative Management Association (CCMA) Takeaways

- Alex McIntyre and Noe Kauanoë shared a debrief of the recent CCMA conference they attended on behalf of the Co-op Board. The annual event brings together food co-op leaders, staff, and board members from across the country to share ideas, build skills, and strengthen the cooperative community.
- Co-ops can be advocates for change, a platform for action and positive growth for the community.
- Allanah Hines' talk on "Rooted in Resistance" was powerful. It challenged co-ops to consider how they can support a wider portion of the community. There could be an opportunity for us to look at how we are raising awareness about the history of cooperatives and whose story we are telling. MAC will explore engaging Allanah as an Annual Meeting speaker.
- The conference also brought up the balance between co-ops providing organic/natural and conventional food options, which can often depend on specific community need and interest.

Co-op Book Club Ideas

- MAC explored the idea of starting a Co-op Book Club. We will reach out to Village Books to see if we can partner on the book club.
- Other ideas mentioned were hosting cookbook author talks and noting Lisa's book suggestions in her newsletter.

Announcements

- The Food Bank Gleaning Project had several acres to grow food and glean with Boxx Farms. Without Boxx Farms, it has been a lean summer of gleaning. There is interest in looking for more farms to glean at or accessing land donated to grow food.
- September is Eat Local Month! Whatcom Farm Tours will take place on September 12. Farm to Table Trails brochure includes a map of local food businesses and farm stands. The Co-op is now selling a bag to highlight the program.

Next meeting: September 30