



**North Coast Co-op
Earth Action Committee (EAC) Minutes
October 11, 2017– Ten Pin Building Mezzanine, Arcata**

EAC Members present: Leah Stamper (chair), Mary Ella Anderson, Cheri Strong, Colin Fiske

Member-Employees present: Emily Walter, Kiya Villarreal, Melanie Bettenhausen, Travis Morgan

Members present: Kash Boodjeh

Non-members present: Zack Pitark

1. Welcomes/introductions/agenda review and additions:

At 6:47pm the meeting was called to order by committee chair Leah Stamper and introductions were made.

2. Approve September 13, 2017 minutes

Consensus reached to approve the September 13, 2017 minutes.

3. Arcata parking lot/ I street visioning – reported by Kash

Kash talked about his 2011 site analysis of the Arcata Co-op. A survey of the parking lot was completed in 2015 which offers additional information to be used in planning improvements. One big thing to consider is the steepness of the parking area. There is a 7-foot height difference from one end to another. Kash asked the question, “does it make sense to put funds into the parking lot when the building itself is in need of revamping?” The current building was built atop of a historic creek bed. The creek is now in a culvert under J street. Soil surveys show the newer part of the Co-op building is sitting atop a “bridge,” but it is unknown what the conditions are under the older portion of the building.

After Kash reviewed his site analysis the group discussed their ideas.

- Kiya - having plants between parking rows would make the parking lot safer.
- In the original study Kash was looking at removing 5-7 parking spaces to create more useful outdoor space.
- The group likes the idea of bikes parking in the front of the store and having outside dining area in front.
- Colin really likes the idea of removing some of the parking spaces near front of store for bike parking and a dining area that would create more of a social meeting space compared to current inside sitting area.
- Does the ADA parking need to remain in the same exact spot?
 - o Kash – no, but they need to be in the most accessible parking spots available.
- Colin – current building is full of big blank walls that are uninviting.
- Kiya - having vertical gardens on the outside walls to increase aesthetics.
- Melanie - enclosing the front entrance of the store would keep the cold air from readily entering.
 - o One idea was to close the front entrance completely, keeping the produce entrance and making an entrance on the other end where staff bike parking currently is.
- Melanie - previous visioning for I street by this group came up with proposing a one-way street going North. Melanie wants to know how this potential change to I Street flow could impact the parking lot.
- Kash - two rows of perpendicular parking would be more efficient. However, some people really like diagonal parking as they feel they can get in and out easier.
- Kash - What about accessing parking lot from I street instead of 8th or 9th. It would help with the slope issue of the parking lot.
- Colin - What about only closing access to the parking lot from 8th?
- Kash – the site analysis is meant to help the conversation. He suggests collecting a wish list of all ideas we would like to see. That list could be given to Kash and he could bring back a couple of new studies to ponder.
- Colin – would like to brainstorm a prioritized list of wants at the next EAC meeting. The list could then be handed over to Melanie to continue working on.

Cheri asked Kash what he thinks about the Eureka remodel project.

- Kash – does not know all the details about the remodel and the reasoning for it. Mentions construction costs are high right now. He believes the economy will start slipping, and in general, that is a better time for construction projects. Kash also pointed to the current local politics and as being a hinderance to the positive development of parts of old town Eureka.
- Melanie reminded the group of the failing equipment at the Eureka store prompting the need for the remodel.

4. Sustainability coordinator update

Kiya met with City of Arcata Environmental Services Program Director and events staff. They focused discussion on Zero Waste Day planning which will be on November 15. The Co-op is the first organization the City has decided to collaborate with on this event. The Co-op will promote Zero Waste Day in stores starting November 1. The store plans on having a zero waste product section and Kiya plans on tabling to promote education about zero waste that includes a zero waste guide. Kiya would like to have a pop-up tent in the Co-op parking lot that would include SCRAP doing a shirt to bag demo. Kiya mentioned a new group called Eco Eureka.

- Colin – what about have a zero waste challenge?
- Melanie – mentioned a plastic free July campaign.

5. New business

None

6. Discuss agenda items for next meeting:

- Parking lot wish list brainstorm (come prepared)
- Compost
- RePower Humboldt

7. Review: Next meeting will be November 8 at 6:45pm.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:53pm

Minutes by Emily Walter