



**North Coast Co-op
Earth Action Committee (EAC) Minutes
July 12, 2017– Ten Pin Building Mezzanine, Arcata**

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

Member-Employees present: Nicole Chase, Emily Walter, Kiya Villarreal, Laurie Talbert

Members present: None

At 6:43 pm the meeting is called to order by committee chair Leah

1. WELCOMES/INTRODUCTIONS/AGENDA REVIEW AND ADDITIONS:

2. APPROVE JUNE 14, 2017 MINUTES

Consensus reached to approve the June 14, 2017 minutes.

3. ZERO WASTE - reported by Kiya

Kiya has been reviewing The City's Zero Waste plan. Kiya believes there will be ways to partner with the City on certain projects, such as getting a digester. Kiya has contacted the City about working with them on their plan and is awaiting a response.

4. ARCATA TRAFFIC- reported by Colin

- How can we assist customers from the store to the bus with groceries?
- How can we improve bike parking?
- How can we improve alternative transportation (non-motor vehicle)?
- Laurie mentioned her background in public transport and her interest in researching options to improve public transport to the Co-op
- Laurie would like to see artistic/unique bike racks at the store and believe they will draw people to the store, including long distance cyclists. She has seen successful artistic bike racks in Washington.

ACTION: Kiya will contact store managers about doing a survey of how people travel to the co-op.

5. SUSTAINABILITY COORDINATOR UPDATE - reported by Kiya

- Post-consumer compost bins have been placed in both employee breakrooms and are being used.

ACTION: Kiya will place a bin in the Ten Pin Building

Waste Audit:

- Kiya did a waste audit at the Eureka deli and found that 66% of the content in their trash bins could have been composted or recycled. Thus, deli waste could be reduced by more than 50%. Kiya noted that most of the actual waste was plastic gloves from the deli.
- Leah mentioned that CA does not require food service workers to wear plastic gloves.
 - o The group wants to get rid of the gloves
 - o Cheri mentioned vinyl (in vinyl gloves) is a carcinogen
 - o Leah mentioned the need to train the meat/deli departments to not use plastic sheets, unless necessary

ACTION: Kiya will see what she can do about getting rid of plastic gloves/reduce their use.

Net Zero Remodel/Deli Update:

- Kiya shared with the group the new types of containers/packaging that will be used in the deli.
- Leah mentions her concern that compostable/recyclable does not change habits and wants to see more focus on education of using durable containers

- Nic reminded the group that there was a motion at the May board meeting to direct staff to find ways to incentivize the use of reusable bags and containers and particularly durable bags and containers
- Can items be displayed in reusable containers?
- Can premade sandwiches be displayed behind a window to be purchased instead of being individually packaged?
- The group discussed having a sanitization station for durable containers to be used at the salad bar or a way for customers to use reusable plates/bowls/utensils in the store.

ACTION: Kiya will invite Lauren and the Jessica's to the next EAC meeting.

ACTION: Kiya will find out where we are out with a plan for incentivizing durable containers.

ACTION: Kiya will talk with the health department about how durable containers and how they can be used at salad bars by their owners. Is there a way to sanitize containers in store?

Straw-less Summer

- Kiya is working on a "straw-less summer" campaign with the purpose of education and changing habits. She would like to incentivize the campaign with a raffle. Her idea is that anytime a customer doesn't take a plastic straw/cup they can be entered in the drawing.
- Reusable straws will be on discount during this time.
- Emily mentioned a great glass straw company, glassdharma.com, out of Fort Bragg, CA, that might donate straws for the giveaway.
- Leah likes the idea of training staff to recognize customers with reusable cups/straws/no straws.

Bulk Labels

- Add signs on isles "Hey this might be available in bulk", "need a small amount, check out bulk!"
- Laurie mentions the need of educational phrasing of sustainable terms like "taring."
- Perhaps labeling could start with the more obscure items that people wouldn't think of as a bulk item?

ACTION: Leah will meet with Kiya about labeling items that can be found in the bulk section.

Annual Sustainability Report

- Kiya is reviewing Brenda's sustainability report.
- Kiya will keep basic metrics, add composting information, an update about cooling systems, and transportation concerns/ideas.
- Colin mentioned researching braces for pallets that can replace plastic wrapping.

6. NEW BUSINESS

None

7. DISCUSS AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:

- Remodel/bulk/deli: remodel and presentation
 - o Revisit the original goals
- Shelf tag for bulk update
- Gloves and plastic in the deli
- Transportation/Parking
- Sustainability Coordinator Update

ACTION: Kiya will brief (Lauren/Courtney/Jessica x 2) and invite them to next EAC meeting.

8. REVIEW: Next meeting will be August 9th at 6:45pm

Meeting Adjourned at 8:18 pm

Minutes by Emily Walter