



North Coast Co-op
Earth Action Committee (EAC) Minutes
August 16, 2016 – Co-op Community Kitchen, Arcata

EAC Members present:

Peggy Leviton, Melanie Bettenhausen, Dave Feral, Collin Fiske, Lauren Fawcett, Roger, Jolie Harvey, Brenda Harper, Bo Boyanov, Larry Pardi, and Kiya Villarreal (notetaker)

At 5:35pm Peggy welcomed everyone, called the meeting to order, and established the agenda.

Agenda Review: Discussion included:

Consensus reached to approve the July 19, 2016 minutes.

Board Meeting follow-up: Discussion included:

Both motions passed by Board.

1. The creation of a sustainability position is approved with development discussion to continue.
2. OZZI program or similar is expensive, more likelihood for durables to be present directly next to disposable to-go containers. A full presentation to be made in October by Lauren Fawcett.

Larry Pardi of Arcata Transportation Department: Discussion included:

- o AMRTS is the Arcata Mad River Transit System, currently operating with the weekday Red and Gold routes and a Saturday Orange route. The City of Arcata is currently the regional area hub. AMRTS is funded completely with state funds and grants, not from the city.
- o 76% of AMRTS ridership is HSU affiliated. A main goal of the relationship with HSU and AMRTS is to get people out of their cars. Currently there are 1,000 parking spaces for personal vehicles on campus but 7,000 parking passes are sold.
- o The routes are primarily dictated by HSU and student demand. AMRTS tailor the route to where students are and skip over certain parts of Arcata with low student presence. Both the Red and Gold routes go to HSU twice an hour while much of Bayside and South G St and the Marsh area are skipped over entirely.
- o Along with students, AMRTS also caters to the Senior population's transport to the Arcata Community Center and Healthsport.
- o If the Co-op begins promoting ridership a focus should be between the hours of 10am and 2pm as early morning buses are highly impacted with students. There is potential for a "flag stop" on J and 8th St. Meaning a bus would only stop when a passenger is present and waves for a pick up.
 - Larry Pardi will follow up regarding the probability of a stop at this location

Ideas for the co-op to build ridership amongst shoppers includes a future HSU sponsored express route and also offering help with grocery transportation. For example, currently we offer to "help to car" we could potentially offer "help to bus" with the use of volunteers as well. Potential for member benefits to include a bus pass or discounted bus passes, depending on bulk price or regulations. As a trial, there is future potential for the co-op purchase of bulk bus passes to be distributed for employee use. This can be a part of the Annual Operational Plan for fiscal year 18 as increasing bus ridership falls under Five Year Strategic Plan. The sustainability position could be delegated the task of measuring interest, create a plan, develop strategy, survey interest again, and lastly create and implement policy. Conversation will be ongoing and development will continue.

Sustainability Report. Discussion included:

The Co+efficient program was developed by NCG specifically for co-ops. Training programs were developed by NCG to be used by staff within the co-op. The Co+efficient program works to record, quantify, and track the metrics of co-op operations and practices. The program creates a narrative of how a sustainable co-op looks. Brenda Harper has worked with this program from NCG to create information to be utilized by Co-op, the Sustainability Committee (now dissolved), and also to develop internal Green Teams.

- Kiya Villarreal from Outreach has expressed interest in this project and will be trained with Sheila Samuelson from NCG to take off where Brenda left off with the Co+efficient program. The potential future of this program is tracking data, analyzing trends, creating improved and informed sustainability practices.

City Planner/Stop Sign. Discussion included:

City of Arcata stated the stop sign cannot be installed because National Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) reported the traffic count too low. However, it has been discovered that the vehicle count is a guideline and not a mandatory standard. Other factors can be presented to mandate a stop sign. We can reach out to the City of Arcata again and point out the warrant can be surpassed if it is deemed necessary for safety.

Available city funds for transportation. Discussion included:

No update

Zero Waste Humboldt and EAC communal interest report. Discussion included:

No update

Sustainability position and Co+efficient program report progress. Discussion included: Training via webinar video and video conference with Sheila Samuelson of NCG has been completed by both Jolie Harvey and Kiya Villarreal. Back data from January to present is currently being entered to track the metrics of co-op operations, electric, gas, and water usage.

Prioritize outstanding items from charter and set agenda. Discussion included:

1. AMRTS Review
2. Stop Sign Strategy Ideas
3. Transportation Funds
4. Zero Waste
5. Outstanding Charter Items

Review: Next meeting will be September 20th at 5:30pm

Meeting Adjourned at 7:05pm

Minutes by Kiya Villarreal

Committee Recommendations: no recommendations
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