



Board Report: June 1, 2017

By Mary Ella Anderson, Treasurer

Your board spent a good portion of its June meeting discussing racism and racial equity. Like many of you, we are appalled at the racist rhetoric on social media following the murder of Humboldt State University sophomore David Josiah Lawson and we acknowledge that not just students, but all people of color, have good cause to feel unsafe in an environment where they are demonized and threatened.

While we have a fairly diverse staff and membership, we want to ensure we are providing a welcoming work and shopping environment. Human Resources Director Michelle Sanders and I, along with the management team, have been participating in the Racial Equity Workshops, held by Humboldt Area Foundation and HSU. Our Vice President Cheri Strong suggested the board draft a statement of support for the effort to make all feel welcome and safe in our community. Cheri and our newest board member James Kloor will be working on that draft with management team. We're also working with the Equity Alliance of the North Coast to develop a training program and update hiring guidelines to promote racial and gender identity diversity.

The board also reviewed and approved the final plan for the Eureka Remodel. We have approached this project with care and caution for the details as well as the overall goal. We are pleased to have developed a Net Zero Impact Plan for the project going forward. Eureka staff will do their best to avoid inconvenience to our Eureka shoppers from the construction, but some disruption may be unavoidable. The Arcata store will be ready to take up any slack.

The board also got an update on the refrigeration failures we experienced at Arcata. Steps are being taken to prevent future issues by better oversight and maintenance. Current refrigerants are a threat to the environment but safer systems are becoming available. We hope to use those in the future.

Lastly, these board reports were designed for a monthly newsletter. Board members were assigned a month to write them. Since we have switched to a quarterly newsletter in the interests of saving paper, quarterly board reports are required. We are continuing with the writing of monthly reports and leaving it up to the newsletter editor to combine them for publication.

Board reports are posted at both stores so members can follow what we're doing. Check out the boards that are up by Customer Service in both stores – they have board reports as well as board and committee agendas posted there. We want our members to be informed with what their Board of Directors is doing. And, of course, you can write us a letter or email and we always welcome members to our meetings.