

FREDERICKSBURG FOOD CO-OP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Meeting Minutes

May 19, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. at Fredericksburg Library and via Zoom

Board Members Present: Toni Stevens, Chair; Paul Simpson, Vice Chair, Valerie Hopson-Bell, Secretary; Amanda Thompson, Cat Carter, Christine McElhinney, Jeremy Larochelle, John Budd

Others Present: Suzie Grumko, CEO/GM; Margaret Kertess (recorder); Michael Gaumond (guest)

Meeting called to order at 6:02 p.m.

CORE VALUES: Suzie recited the Co-op's core values.

Guest Comments: Michael Gaumond shared his background in grocery retail and current position as an investment advisor. He also serves on the board of his HOA and recently joined the Food Co-op. He has a particular interest in sustainability.

Approval of Board Meeting Minutes of April 14, 2026

- **Motion to approve April 14, 2026 minutes:** Toni; second Valerie. Approved 8-0.

New Board Member: Toni welcomed John Budd, who is filling Andre's director position. John ran in the last board election and has a financial and business background. Paul will be his board mentor.

General Manager's Reports

FYI Highlights

- Facility/Equipment
 - New freezers have been ordered at a cost of \$65,000. Delivery is expected in about four weeks. All other refrigeration is in working order.
- Strategic Planning
 - Suzie will make a presentation at the next meeting of the Fredericksburg NAACP and is working with them to collaborate on food accessibility.
 - The marketing team is working on attracting residents of the new apartments and townhouses nearby.
- Cooperation Among Co-ops
 - Suzie had valuable meetings with key NCG staff at the Spring NCG meeting in San Diego last month.
- Operations
 - The new Wellness Buyer, a certified herbalist with years of experience, is starting tomorrow.
 - The store is hiring a new Perishable Buyer.
 - Sales are running at just over 10% increase YOY.
 - The change to a new credit card processor (UNFI) is complete and a glitch with receiving the payments has been resolved.
- Ownership Data
 - Total owners as of 5/16/26 = 4425.
- Community Coop Cash (CCC)
 - Suzie has promoted the new administrator of the program to a manager position.

Customer Survey

- Suzie updated the board on survey results and related training for staff. She noted that the Comments from the survey are confidential operational information.

Financials

- The financials received are not accurate. Suzie is exploring hiring a different accountant.

GM Policy Report: B5 – Treatment of Customers

- Suzie's report detailed compliance and ongoing staff training.

NCG Performance Report

- The annual report from NCG reflected the Co-op's outstanding business performance.

Treasurer's Report

- Toni will serve as acting treasurer until the next election of officers. She is receiving some additional training.

Policy and Governance Review – Toni

- Policy C4 – Board Meetings
 - Toni reviewed compliance with the policy.

New Committee Charter – Annual Meeting Committee

- Toni introduced the proposed Annual Meeting Committee charter. She noted that the former events committee members have been invited and that all board directors are welcome to join.
- The business section of the Annual Meeting will be held in the church next door to the store.
- **Motion to adopt Annual Meeting Committee charter:** Cat; second Jeremy. Approved 8-0.

Sustainability Advisory Committee – Cat

- The committee is revisiting their charter and the priorities set previously to determine accomplishments and next steps.

Board Calendar – Toni

- Toni reviewed updates to the calendar, including scheduling of next year's 5K race.

Board Training – Christine

- Board directors are encouraged to take advantage of the Columinate training opportunities included in the store's [Cooperative Board Leadership Development](#) (CBLD) program enrollment.
- Christine noted the availability of recordings from the upcoming CCMA conference. Attendees will decide if the investment is worthwhile after attending the programs.

Other Business

- **5K Report**
 - Christine reported on the success of the 5K. Attendance and funds raised were slightly lower than 2025.
 - Christine and Toni, this year's co-chairs, will write up procedures for future races.
 - They noted the goal of more board involvement, especially for obtaining sponsorships.

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Margaret Kertess