

New Orleans Food Community
Board of Directors Meeting
14 December 2005
8203 Plum Street
New Orleans, Louisiana

Present:

Tommy Boehm
John Calhoun
Karley D. Frankic
Erin Laine

Proxies:

Betsy Heminway
Bridget Kelly

Erin Laine called the meeting to order at 6:19 pm.

Karley D. Frankic apologized for not having distributed the minutes from the last meeting. Technical difficulties have delayed the editing and they will be made available online.

Treasurer's Report

The treasurer, Marian Comiskey, was not in attendance. John Calhoun reported that NOFC raised \$73.00 from Festivus gift wrapping. We also had two new members and a partial payment toward a third new membership. John Calhoun went on to report that there is approximately \$12,500 in bank accounts and cash. He reported that he opened an account at Bank of Louisiana. John Calhoun said that Bridget Kelly is coming back and he hoped that she would be able to take over the treasurer responsibilities again.

Karley D. Frankic gave the cash for the Occupancy License back to John Calhoun and said that New Orleans City Hall is not accepting cash. When we are ready to complete an application we will need to write a check.

Melonheads

John Calhoun reported that he talked to the owner of Melonheads who said that he was not prepared to offer a compromise on the No Compete Clause that he had required and would like to cut off negotiations until next year.

John Calhoun moved to end negotiations with Melonheads for a storefront for the NOFC. He said that he does not want the status of the negotiations with Melonheads to be an issue again in the future. Tommy Boehm said that since we had problems finding a common ground with the proprietor of Melonheads on a No Compete Clause it is best to end the negotiations. Erin Laine said that she will need to update the website to reflect this change. Erin Laine asked if the owner came back later saying that he does not require the No Compete Clause if the BOD would be interested in reopening discussion. John Calhoun said that he does not feel that he would not be comfortable entering into a relationship with Melonheads in light of recent developments. Erin Laine and John Calhoun reported that the two proxies they were representing were not in favor of . All present voted in favor of the motion.

Karley D. Frankic suggested that we put the Location Committee back in action with help

from the membership. John Calhoun said that a site search should be an important in this meeting.

Annual Member Meeting

Erin Laine said that she will not be able to attend the January 5th annual member meeting. John Calhoun said that this BOD was supposed to be an interim board, as we elect a permanent board, we might need to wait until we have more members. Erin Laine said that Betsy Heminway was only staying on the BOD until the elections at the annual member meeting. John Calhoun said that it is likely to be a lot of the same people elected to the BOD under the circumstance of moderate member numbers and possible low attendance due to Hurricane Katrina displacement. Tommy Boehm said that the BOD could be active from out of town through the Internet. Karley D. Frankic said that the members can nominate and elect anyone they want if the person agrees, regardless of whether they are currently residing in New Orleans or not.

John Calhoun said that he would ask Robert Thompson if we can hold the annual members meeting upstairs at Fairgrinds Coffee House. Erin Laine reminded Karley D. Frankic that it is the duty of the secretary to notify all members ten days in advance of the member meeting. Erin Laine said that she is open to not being on the BOD and just being an active member, she feels that being on the BOD might help get other members more active. She said that the BOD has demanded a lot of time since October. Karley D. Frankic said that this is because of the big push to open a storefront. John Calhoun said that it might stay as busy or get busier with a storefront opening. John Calhoun said that we could have up to nine BOD and Karley D. Frankic asked a minimum number, Erin Laine confirmed that the minimum was five. Erin Laine said that the primary item on the agenda should be the election of the BOD. John asked if we wanted to have something fun. Karley D. Frankic suggested that we have a potluck. Erin Laine said that we might also have a presentation by another co-op about their experience opening. John Calhoun recommended that we build off of our agenda from last year. At that meeting we shared the bylaws and outlined the duties of the board and officers.

Location

John Calhoun said that we should exhaust every possible resource for finding a location including flyers, newspaper articles, list-serves. John Calhoun reported that we had a second cash register donated to us. Karley D. Frankic said that we should look at both for sale and for rent properties. Tommy Boehm reported that regular SBA grants are more accessible right now for the Gulf Coast region. John Calhoun said that he wants to find a place that we can move into quickly with the funds that we have and treat this as a stepping stone. John Calhoun suggested that we talk about if we want to focus on a specific area of town. We want to get a membership from the entire city, but if we are focusing in a specific neighborhood we can build membership from that neighborhood while we look for a site. Erin Laine said that we should keep building on the momentum in the Marigny/Bywater neighborhood. Tommy Boehm suggested leaving off Bywater from the search so that we can be stay accessible to Uptown and Mid-City members. John Calhoun said that we could sustain a store with the population of the Marigny/Bywater, but we want to service the whole town. Tommy Boehm suggested Canal Street to Press Street, the Mississippi River to Broad Street. Karley D. Frankic thought the flooding on Broad Street could be an issue in finding a building. Tommy Boehm said that Esplanade Avenue at Broad Street was high and dry but fell quickly on either side of Esplanade Avenue. If we find something outside that area that is a great deal, than we won't write it off. Erin Laine asked if we should write off buildings that flooded. John Calhoun said that he thought a good building should not be turned down if it only needs a little work by utilizing volunteer labor if it is accessible to the target neighborhood. The good thing about the Melonheads site was there was enough foot traffic to

support the store. Karley D. Frankic said that we should not locate somewhere that it's dark at night. Erin Laine asked if we should look into buying the Phoenix Stables building.

John asked about different creative ways to get the word out. Tommy Boehm said that he would talk to a reporter he knows. John Calhoun thought flyers, e-mail, list serves, Gambit, Offbeat are good resources. Karley D. Frankic said that she would contact the food writer at Gambit Weekly. John Calhoun suggested, on Amy George-Hirons suggestion, having an informational meeting in the neighborhood, such as the ones NOFC had in Riverbend and Bayou St. John to let people who do not know about us learn more. The more people that can help us the better. Erin Laine asked where we could have the meeting. John Calhoun thought that Sound Cafe would allow us to hold it there. Karley D. Frankic said that the cafe closed at eight, so we could have an evening meeting without conflicting with their regular business.

Tommy Boehm moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 pm, Erin Laine seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.