

Brownsville Co-op

Minutes October 9, 2006

Present: Steve Brenner, Gian Mercurio, Anne Stein, Donna Di Pietro, Penny Bridgeman, Cheryl Haworth, Marlene Logan, Jenny Durringer (sp?), Rick Lehman

Minutes: The minutes were read and accepted as corrected.

Co-op Financial report: Marlene reported that the **Co-op** has a **total** of **\$1406.21**, with \$175 maintained in cash for the Farmers' Market cash box and \$1231.21 in the checking account. The **Farmers' Market** generated **income** of **\$95.70** this month. Steve reported that we will have 44 supporting members when new vendor Jane Mac Queen gets her check mailed in.

Co-op Legal Entity: no report

Committee Reports:

Buyers Club Steve reported that the first order to **Azure Standard** went smoothly, and everyone seemed very pleased with the quality and prices. We will need more volunteers on delivery afternoons to break down the orders and oversee pick up. Penny said that she would be glad to be more involved, if we let her know the day. The tent worked well as a delivery site, but we decided to have a work party to put down a pallet floor and move Penny's refrigerator into the tent for storing items needing cold until they are picked up. The **work party** will be on **Monday, Oct 16th at 10:00 am**.

The next order deadline will be Wed, October 18th, with delivery expected in the afternoon, Monday the 23rd. Steve suggested we get two or three overlapping shifts of volunteers to work no longer than 2 hours each. Volunteers bring coolers for the refrigerated items and tag each order by owner.

Organically Grown Donna (466-3045) and Penny (554-4838) are working on our 'pioneer' order. If there is anyone else who would like to join them, call one of them as soon as possible, please.

Marcola group Steve asked, since two of them are now supporting (paid) members, whether we could simply ask each additional family to pay \$5. We agreed

Farmers' Market Anne reported that while the number of vendors is dropping as their produce runs out, those who are there are selling well and are, therefore, happy. She has scheduled a **Vendors' meeting for 9:30 am, Sat., Nov. 5th** to debrief the season, decide what we can do to improve next year, when we want to begin, and if there are ways we can cooperate to be more effective. **Anne** will write an **article for the Times** after the

meeting to help generate interest for next year. She will also talk to Don Ware about a Co-op column which could include recipes for cooking with locally grow able produce during the winter, gardening tips etc, which some of us could work on.

(Anne's) larger canopy has dropped the need for so many volunteers to set up and break down each week. Therefore we can probably make do with the loyal sales and record keeping crew to get through the rest of the month. **Anne will need help on the 28th to take down or move her canopy.**

Based on this years' Market revenue, we can project about \$500 income per year so it was decided to look for grants over the winter to help buy tables, chairs, professional scale(s) and canopy(s). The cost of liability insurance for this season would have been \$183 with Safeco the only company supplying Farmers' Markets, but at this point, we will forego it this year. **Anne will find out what it will cost to also get general liability coverage for the Co-op and for the Community Gardens next year and whether we can have the vendors opt in as well.**

In discussing ideas for improvement next year, Cheryl said that we will need to have formal training for volunteers to improve what we are doing. It would also be really nice to get someone to recruit musicians to enhance the market. We would also like to find ways to utilize excess produce for seniors or low income folks or *something*. At this point, if we have excess, Marlene will take any zucchini and Penny will find a way to use anything in her restaurant.

Community Gardens Cheryl needs to recruit someone to take over as project manager as she has run out of time. There has been no progress on the lease.

Building: Willow and Rick reported that they hope to complete disassembly of the remainder of the old 'roof' and have a new one, which would also cover the deck, up before the hard rains come, as the current situation is very unstable and therefore dangerous.

Logo / Tag line Contest: We need a Brownsville Co-op logo (a graphic symbol) and a tag line (short slogan like "Plop! Plop! Fizz! Fizz! Oh, what a relief it is!" or "We make our money the old fashioned way. We EARN it!") We are going to have a contest of people both inside and outside the Co-op. We discussed a potential prize of a membership for a winner not yet a member. **Steve will write an article for the Times.**

Next Meeting: 7:30 pm, Monday, November 6th at Brambles Restaurant, 209 N. Templeton