

## **Background**

At the suggestion of Gian Mercurio a meeting was scheduled for the board to meet with Randy, Willow and Rick to open up the lines of communication and help clear the air on a number of issues related to the Farmers' Market.

## **Frustrations**

Some frustrations were shared over the poor communication that currently existed between the Co-op and Randy. One example mentioned was that the Farmers' Market was encouraged to move their operation back a few yards when the last concert was conducted; we were not asked to move out completely. Another example mentioned was that Randy's request that no one walk through the kitchen area was being ignored by Co-op workers. The biggest frustration was the continued sale of individual bakery items that were perceived as being detrimental to Randy's business.

## **Requested Changes in Farmers' Market**

One booth where all bakery items can be sold.

This would be a double wide booth where whole pies and whole bread loaves would be sold.

Communication

Willow will be Randy's vehicle regarding voicing his needs for the Farmers' Market.

Move Community Booth away from handicapped parking area

Randy could be fined for this and it will also improve the entry to the café.

It was suggested that we setup near the southern portion of the parking lot. If we use a portion of Cindy Clark's property, we will need to place her on our insurance policy. Willow will talk to her.

Covering some of Randy's costs

The Co-op offered to supply paper towels and toilet paper to replace what was being used by farmer's market people. Randy would accept it but not demand it.

No parking for Farmers' Market vehicles on Main St. in front of cafe

Use side streets. This will provide the parking that is need for café customers.

New vendors

New vendors need to sign agreement before they setup. Start selling the following week or use community booth.

## Planning for the future

### The new space

Randy was planning on expanding the café another 15 feet towards the new area. Much of this would be an enlarged kitchen but the dining area would be larger as well. There would be an open space between businesses front and back so that customers can freely move between them. French doors could close the space off when one or the other business was not open. Old materials were being utilized to give the space a country like feel. The Mission Mill in Salem and the Down to Earth store in Eugene were examples of the type of atmosphere that Willow and Rick are aiming for.

Randy might run a restaurant during the evening hours. It was unlikely that he would make the kitchen available for use by strangers.

The space beyond Randy's would be an open commercial space where any number of vendors could setup business. The transition between vendors would appear to be relatively seamless.

### HUD Zone Grant

A HUD zone grant was mentioned as a way to get startup money. Work through the Linn Council of Governments.

### Business Plan

Ramona Ginn has volunteered to work on this. Linn County doesn't have a growers co-op market. Work with Keith Miller, Linn County Small Business Assistance.

1000 sq. ft. can operate with 2 people.

Can volunteers operate the store?

Probably not. Their role is very limited.

[answer from Michele Adams – 1<sup>st</sup> Alternative Co-op Mngr: "You can only use volunteers if you are a humanitarian organization, not a grocery store or competing in retail. You can use volunteers to do things that aren't needed to run the store, like landscaping or outreach work in the community. There is a very fine line with what you can use."]

### Suggestions for Next Year's Market

Charge for booth space?

Card tables would be free – for small operators

Limit of two booths wide.