

## Board Meeting Summary June-December 2007

The People's Food Co-Op of Kalamazoo Board of Directors have been working dilligently all year toward switching the Kalamazoo PFC from a membership structure to an equity-based ownership structure. Toward this end, the board benefitted from the wisdom and guidance of two consultants in 2007: Marshall Kovitz, who facilitated the board's retreat; and Bill Gessner, who led a two-day intensive workshop on the expansion process. Both Kovitz and Gessner have a wealth of co-op leadership experience, invaluable assets as the Kalamazoo PFC prepares its own imminent expansion.

The expansion policy was unanimously approved in July and added to the Executive Limitations. In August, Aliisa Lahti was elected to be chair of the PFC board; Nora Chaus was named vice-chair. In September, changes were made to the GM evaluation procedure and quarterly financial reports were approved. By the end of the year, the board set its 2008 budget and approved Chris Dilley's business plan.

Plans are in motion by a special task force to increase the number of owners who have invested their money in the co-op. Also, a task force has been created to raise money via loans toward acquiring the necessary capital for the move to a new location starting in July. Member-owners are encouraged to participate in these task forces. To obtain more member-owners, the co-op board members will take turns meeting and greeting shoppers in the co-op throughout January and February.

In a sad turn of events, long-time board member Erik Benson and Michael Reed, elected at last year's annual meeting, resigned. These vacancies leave the PFC board with at least two vacant seats, which will be filled through elections at the annual meeting this March.

The January board meeting is scheduled for January 22 at the Gilmore Center of Bronson Hospital's classroom 6 at 7 p.m. Member-owners are encouraged to attend to help the PFC board members design the goals and forward vision of the PFC (known as "ends"). What issues should concern the PFC board most? What are the greatest priorities facing the PFC as it designs its future. If you have ideas, please attend the January meeting and share your thoughts.

respectfully submitted by PFC secretary chris tower