



Central Co-op Board of Trustees Open Session Board Meeting Minutes

September 26 2022, 6:30-7:15 p.m.

This meeting was conducted via remote-conferencing device.

ATTENDANCE

Trustees: **Emily Happy**, *Chair and CGO (2019-2022)*; **Brian Bessebinders**, *Vice Chair (2012-2021)*; **Carey DiJulio** (2020-2023); **Bill Bielby** (2020-2023); **Jaime Vogt** (2021-2024); **Catherine Willis Cleveland**, *Executive Trustee (2019-)*.

**filling out a 3-year elected term*

Absent: **Miguel Rodriguez**

Visitors: Tafari Maynard, Byrd Barr Place

Note-taker: **Sue Spang**, *Board Liaison*

Start Time: 6:30 pm

Approving Agenda/Consent Agenda: *Sue Spang*

Consent Agenda & Policies: **Brian** moves to approve, **Carey** seconds. *Unanimous approval from voting members.*

Tonight's Agenda: **Bill** moves to approve, **Brian** seconds, *unanimous approval*

Trustee Storytelling: *Emily Happy*

Emily asked Board Members to share their favorite Fair Foods, since it's Fair Season! Answers included a number of classic festival treats: elephant ears/funnel cakes, strawberry shortcake, street corn, soft ice cream, and the universal "anything deep fried."

Community Partner Presentation: *Tafari Maynard, Ops Director at Byrd Barr Place*

One of our geographically closest community partners, Byrd Barr place has recently undergone a complete transformation from a Food Bank-style operation to a Market-Style operation! This change in physical format, Tafari explained, allows more diverse choices for shoppers, while also giving them the opportunity to, as he said, "shop with dignity." He also reflected on changing the feel from a mindset of scarcity to one of abundance for their clientele.

He lauded the long partnership with Central Co-op, and particularly the availability of cultural and dietary options that they are able to purchase at the Co-op to offer to their participants.

Tafari also spoke about non-food-related assistance programs that Byrd Barr offers, and that Central Co-op helps make possible – Energy, Water, and Rental Assistance, as well as Financial Education, are all services offered by Byrd Barr to our Seattle neighborhood community.

Special thanks were given to our own Carey DiJulio, who volunteers at Byrd Barr! Several other Board members expressed interest in learning more about how to plug in with this community leader in food security!

OPEN SESSION CLOSE: 7:15 pm.

This meeting was followed by an Executive Session of the Board of Trustees.