

APPROVED



Council Retreat Notes

February 1, 2022

Present: Eva Schectman, Jen Porrier, Julia Scheier, Steven Farnham, RJ Adler, Lauren Antler, Catherine Lowther, Andrew Sullivan

Staff and Notes: Kari Bradley

Staff Representative: Nick Sivret

Facilitator: Jade Barker

Owing to concerns presented by the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, this Retreat was conducted via Zoom teleconference.

At approximately 5:00pm, Eva welcomed everyone and introduced Jade. There were no community comments. Participants introduced themselves, and addressed what interests them in Council service.

The Council reviewed meeting ground rules.

Jade introduced an activity using the governing policies for Council process alignment. Participants joined small groups to complete the activity. In the small groups, participants identified various policies from the policy handbook that might be used to address the various issues Council members had earlier identified for discussion during the retreat.

The full group reconvened to report and discuss. It was noted that the policies enable the council to address a wide variety of issues the Co-op faces.

Jade introduced another activity and different small groups formed to discuss the recent council exit interviews and how they could inform plans for further council development and focus. The groups reconvened in the large group again to summarise and discuss.

Council members shared comments about how the process differed between the first and second activities. There were multiple comments about finding creative ways for council members to get to know each other better.

Finally council members shared what they learned about their board process that they would like to carry forward. The predominant theme recognised was the need to resolve the tension between the desire for creative deliberation and the need to efficiently address business items during the limited time available in council meetings.

Jade said she would produce a summary report and asked council members to complete a feedback survey. Eva thanked Jade and the retreat ended at approximately 7:55PM.