Hunger Mountain COOP

Council Meeting Minutes

June 23, 2026

Present:

Council: Carl Etnier, Steven Farnham, Jeff Roberts, Giles Brulé (Online, Departed 7:31:35), Greg Gerdel (Departed 6:30:41), Catherine Lowther (Online), Mark Seltzer (Online), Leesa Stewart

Staff: Mary Mullally, Jess Knapp, Kevin O'Donnell, Rowan Sherwood (Online), Tom Wright

Facilitator: Mark Simakaski

Guests: Mark Goehring (6:31:33 - 7:29:07), Rita Ricketson, Mark Simakaski

Audio (Timestamps in blue indicate where audio corresponding to a given paragraph can be found in the recording.)

1. **Commencement 5:30:18PM (0:00:03):**

Carl called the meeting to order, welcoming Council members, staff, and guests.

2. **Agenda Review 5:32:30PM (0:02:16):** Carl proposed using the scheduled Executive Session for GM Evaluation and Business Plan discussions. No one voiced objection.

3. **Bonding Exercise 5:33:42PM (0:03:30):**

Mark asked the group, "Chips or cookies, and which kind?" Responses: Chocolate chip, Fresh baked, Cheese cookies, Both, Crunchy cookies, Chewy molasses, Butterfly Bakery, Hermits, Douglas sweets rosemary shortbreads, Corn chips."

4. **Community Comments 5:35:32PM (0:05:15):**

None.

5. **Consent agenda 5:35:42PM (0:00:00):** Jeff moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Leesa seconded. Ayes: 7, Nays: 0, Abstentions: 0. The motion passed unanimously.

6. **Executive Session: Business Plan Presentation 5:36:55PM (0:06:39):**

Carl read the motion: "Whereas premature knowledge of the discussion of the business plans by Co-op Members would cause substantial harm to the Co-op or a person involved, be it resolved that we will enter executive session to discuss the proposed business plan, under bylaws §7.3(d)." Jeff moved it; Leesa seconded. Ayes: 7, Nays: 0, Abstentions: 0. The motion passed unanimously. Rita and Jess were invited to join the Executive session. Council entered executive session at 5:38:14PM (0:07:24).

Jeff moved to exit Greg seconded to exit Executive Session. There was no vote, and no objection. Council exited Executive Session at 6:10:30.

7. **L6 Business and Financial Planning Monitoring Report 6:10:43PM (0:07:37):**

Noting that in the previous agenda item, Council had just seen all of the basis for the monitoring report, Mary announced full compliance with policy L6: Business and Financial Planning.

Mary stated the "…business plan establishes goals for employee development, communication with culture and sales efficiencies along with many key projects. These priorities directly and indirectly support values of sustainable operations, vibrant community, local food, environmental sustainability and cooperations as articulated in our ends policy. So we're just wanting to make sure that we are in alignment there. We've also spoken to or demonstrated how we are avoiding fiscal jeopardy. So our fiscal year 2027 budget projections are better than benchmarks in all three measures."

Mary then detailed some of the numbers from the financial statements, demonstrating each were in compliance, noting a conservative approach.

Jeff moved to accept the L6 Monitoring Report. Leesa seconded. Ayes: 7, Nays: 0, Abstentions: 0. The motion passed unanimously.

8. **Council Self-Evaluation 6:15:13PM (0:12:07):**

Carl described the customary process and survey involved in the self-evaluation, including the CBLD representative's role in interpreting and summarising the survey results, and asked if Council members wanted to continue with that, or use a different approach. It was determined that there was no Council self-evaluation in the previous year. In response to a comment from Steven, Carl reminded the group that it's good to routinely review the Co-op's G policies which address conduct expected of the Council members.

Mark suggested that reviewing the Council self-evaluation is a task for the Development Committee. Noting no "groundswell of opposition" to using the current survey, Carl suggested that he, in consultation with Laura King would circulate and process the results of a survey.

Mark stated a preference to review the survey questions first. Stating that there are two more meetings in the Council year, Carl suggested that's not much time to revise the self-evaluation prior to running it. Mark asked if this would be a good subject for a retreat. Carl suggested, and it was agreed, that he, Leesa and Mark review the current evaluation in time to present at the September meeting.

9. **Ballot Committee Formation 6:24:15PM (0:21:07):**

Carl asked the Council to authorise the Executive Committee to appoint members to the Ballot Committee. Rowan stated that she has asked folks who have previously served to serve again; Dorie Wilsnack and Barbara Korecki have both expressed willingness to serve.

Leesa moved to authorise the Executive Committee to appoint members of the Ballot Committee. Jeff seconded. Ayes: 7, Nays: 0, Abstentions: 0. The motion passed unanimously.

10. **Break 6:28:12PM (0:25:11).**

11. **Executive Session: Strategic Planning 6:37:28PM (0:25:14):**

To enter Executive Session, Jeff stated. "So moved." Catherine seconded. Carl read the specifics of the motion: "Whereas premature knowledge of the discussion of the strategic plans by Co-op Members could cause substantial harm to the Co-op or a person involved, be it resolved that we will enter executive session to discuss the strategic plan (bylaws 7.3(d)." Ayes: 6, Nays: 0, Abstentions: 0. The motion passed unanimously. Council entered Executive Session at 6:39:28 (0:27:13).

Hearing no objection, Carl declared the end of Executive Session, and Council exited Executive Session at 7:30:11 (0:27:16).

12. **Executive Session: GM Evaluation 7:30:17PM (0:27:22):**

Carl moved "Whereas knowledge of personnel issues by Co-op Members could cause substantial harm to the Co-op or a person involved, be it resolved that we will enter executive session to discuss personnel issues (bylaws 7.3(a)." Jeff seconded. Ayes: 6, Nays: 0, Abstentions: 0.

The motion passed unanimously. Council entered Executive Session at 7:31:35 (0:28:27). Hearing no objection, Carl declared the end of Executive Session, and Council exited Executive Session at 7:52:10 (0:28:30).

13. Denouement 7:52:18PM (0:28:34):
Mary read action Items.

Action	Who	🎶
Update Gross Margin #'s for FY28 and FY29 projections and update correlating statement in budget.	Mary/Tom	
Review council evaluation questions and send out to entire council.	Council Develop-ment Committee	
Prioritise list from evaluation and provide to council in September.	Mary	

Calendar: Carl announced the Executive Committee will meet Thursday, and will continue to meet monthly through the summer. Carl suggested folks send questions or agenda requests for the September meeting to the Executive Committee.
Evaluation: Numbers range was 7 to 8. Comments included: Rushed, Need more discussion on Co-op's environmental impact, Good Conversation and information, and excellent GM Evaluation, Appreciate Mark Goehring's input (Executive Session), and appreciate Mark Simakaski's facilitation.

14. Adjournment 7:57:20PM (0:33:39):
Jeff moved to adjourn. Leesa seconded. Ayes: 4, Nays: 0, Abstentions: 0. The motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:57:31 PM (0:33:50).