

**Open Harvest Cooperative
Annual Meeting Minutes
November 5, 2020
6:00 – 7:00 PM
via ZOOM.US (E-Meeting)
Lincoln, Nebraska**

- Present:** **Member-Owners:** 50+ attendees.
 Board Directors: Matt Pirog (Board Chair), Wally Graeber, Rosina Paolini, Jen Burianek, Corey Rumann, Aaron Druery, Megan Jackson, Margaret Milligan, Lori Ashmore
- Staff:** Amy Tabor (General Manager), Jonathan Sands, Elizabeth Norris, Kat Cantrell
- 5:55 PM** **Social Time:** Prior to the business meeting, Member-Owners were allowed entry into the ZOOM-based meeting, and were free to communicate with each other via the in-app chat box.
- 6:05 pm** **Welcome and Introductions:** Matt Pirog (Board Chair) welcomed all attendees to the meeting. The Chair called the meeting to order, introduced the other Directors and the GM, and presented the meeting agenda and guidelines for engagement. A web-app, Mentimeter, was used to provide an engagement opportunity for all attendees.
- 6:10 pm** **Board Update:** The Chair presented a review of the “Financial Meeting of Member Owners” (FIN MOO) meeting that occurred earlier in the year. The Chair also summarized the financial training directors, a 4-part series facilitated by Columinate. In addition, a professional market study was conducted to determine the feasibility for a store relocation. The Chair reaffirmed the importance of making Open Harvest an inclusive community and summarized efforts of the co-op to accomplish this, including The Abolitionists Challenge, a 6 month program by LaDonna Sanders Redmond (Columinate). The Chair introduced Lori Ashmore, Board Director and Chair of the Election Committee.
- 6:20 pm** **2020 Board Election:** Lori Ashmore, Board Director and Chair of the Election Committee, to discuss the 2020 election results and introduce the full Board. Lori explained that Matt Pirog declined the opportunity to run. The winners of this election were Corey Rumann (Incumbent), Rosina Paolini (incumbent), and Anna Hernoud. The election was uncontested. 3 additional vacancies were appointed in a previous Board Meeting: Carla McCullough, Keith Dubas, Shah Uddin. 1 vacancy remains.

- 6:25 pm** **Annual Report by the General Manager, Amy Tabor:** Amy Tabor (General Manager), announced that the close of the 2020 Fiscal Year marks the 4th year as General Manager. Amy Tabor described the 2020 plans: re-launching the Deli department following a renovation, expanding community dining events, and more. Amy described the highlights of the 2020 Financials, including: “Where does \$1 go”, and announcing the 4th consecutive year of profitability. Other highlights included 24 days cash on hand, acquisition of the PPP loan, \$26,000 offered in “Hero Pay”, and 63% margin improvement. Amy further described the co-op response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and re-iterated the launch of the “Curbside Pick-up” program that was launched in 2020. Amy also announced the launch of potential 2021 initiatives including: E-Commerce, Women Infants & Children (WIC), Inclusive Communities (Project R.E.A.D.I). Amy closed her update with an interactive question that attendees could answer, powered by Mentimeter.
- 6:35 pm** **2021 SEED Program Announcement:** Board Director Rosina Paolini described the SEED Program, a round up at the register initiative to benefit local non-profit organizations. Amy Tabor announced that over \$14,000+ were raised in 2020. Amy also announced the five Community Choice 2021 SEED recipients including: Malone Center, Matt Talbot Kitchen & Outreach, Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center, Great Plains Trail Network, and The Bay. The Harv-Aid Committee determined the remaining five 2021 SEED recipients including: Food Fort, Sunday Farmers’ Market at CollegeView, Nebraska Sustainable Agriculture Society, Montessori School for Young Children, and We Can Do This (F. Street Community Center). Amy provided an opportunity for attendees to engage via Mentimeter and offer insights into what more the co-op could do to support recipients in the future.
- 6:40 pm** **Looking Forward:** Amy Tabor opened this section of the meeting with another engagement opportunity for attendees. Amy reaffirmed the goals of the co-op and the initiatives the co-op is pursuing.
- 6:50 pm** **Raffle / Q & A / Comments:** Amy Tabor, Matt Pirog, and Rosina Paolini fielded questions from attendees, discussing various related topics. A raffle ended the meeting, providing several winners of co-op gift cards.
- 7:00 pm** **The meeting was adjourned.**