Adopted Minutes
East End Food Co-op Board Meeting
Hybrid meeting held in EEFC Conference Room and via Microsoft Teams
April 20th, 2026

In attendance:
Board Members: Tom Pandaleon, President; Nick Leise, Vice President; Michael Vogel, Secretary; Desmond Zheng, Heather Kenner
Management: Tyler Kulp, General Manager
Member-Owners: Stanley Beck, Fritz Geist, Iris Wylde, Beth Merenstein, Deb Knox, Jackson O'Connell-Barlow, Jeffrey Fisher
Board Clerk: Jessie Ryan

Introduction
Tom called the meeting to order at 7:06p.m. and read the Ends Statement aloud.

The East End Food Co-op exists to enhance physical and social health in our community.
To these ends, we will create:
1. A sustainable member-owned business open to everyone
2. An ethical and resilient food infrastructure
3. A vibrant, dynamic community of happy, healthy people
4. A creative vision to transform the future

Check-In
Directors in attendance checked in to express their feelings and any needs.

Amend/Approve Agenda
Decision: Nick motioned to approve the agenda as written. Second by Tom. There were no objections.

Amend/Approve Minutes
Decision: Tom motioned to approve the March meeting minutes as written. Second by Nick. There were no objections.

Member-Owners Open Session
Fritz introduced themself as the President of UE Local 667 and a representative of Co-ops Against Genocide, which is the coalition of member-owners campaigning to boycott Israeli sourced goods. They asked the Board for an update on the statement they submitted and the upcoming vote.

Iris introduced themself as the Chief Steward of UE Local 667. They expressed concerns that the Board is not preserving the democratic integrity of the vote.

Jackson shared his thoughts on the conflict in Gaza.

Stanley said he thinks it is appropriate for the Board to give its opinion on issues that will be voted on.

Deb said she understands the issue that has been raised, but it is not something she would support as a member.

April Working Meeting Report
The Board met on April 6th to discuss the GM review, organization and communication with the new Board Secretary, next steps to prepare for the second email to go out about the advisory referendum, MOP and Finance Committee updates, and committee events.

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GM Update
This report is in addition to the monthly monitoring reports. The expectation of this update is to give additional information to the Board of Directors that may not be included in the month's monitoring report. This report aligns with parts of sub-policy B7: Communication to the Board…. "The General Manager shall not cause or allow the Board to be uninformed or unsupported in its work."

Membership:
Current total Member-Owners: 17,675
- fully paid Member-Owners: 15,016 (as of 10/31/25)

New Member-Owners: March – Net 52
Total Member-Owner sales: March $689,918 = 61% of sales, +2.3% over 3/2025.
FYTD New Members (Net) – 374 (Prior Year thru March = 404 ~ -7.4% decrease)

Register Round-Up:
March – June (Q4) Recipient: Information on recipient is available on our website, and at each checkout lane.

Casa San Jose

FY26 YTD Total Raise: $3,280

Operations Update:
- Construction work has continued on Meade Street over the last two weeks. Paving and sidewalk repairs have led to more street closures.
- Strategic Plan update: IFTI supplied us with the 3D renderings of our site very quickly. We are now in possession of phased design proposals from NCG. The fixture plan and construction is currently being estimated and we should have some figures by mid-May.
- Beginning next week there will be a local company on site installing new security cameras throughout the store. Our existing cameras are more than 12 years old. In technological years they are completely obsolete.
- Exciting plans in Rockwell Park next week: the return of Veg Fair on 4/18, followed by Art All Night's first appearance in the Lexington Industrial Park.

Finance Update:
- YTD sales as of 4/12/2026 (week 41): $11,161,930 +1.8% over prior year
- The week ending 4/12/2026 sales were $292,558, a -4% decrease over prior year

Updates/Questions/Comments:
- Was there any noticeable increase in foot traffic when Veg Fair was happening?
  - No, not from a sales and transaction perspective.

A-Ends
The Policy Register states, "The East End Food Co-op exists to enhance physical and social health in our community. To these ends, we will create:
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Updates/Questions/Comments:

- Is the Food Trust a local Pennsylvania entity?
  - They are based out of Philadelphia. We have an account representative who is local in Pittsburgh who comes into the store at least once a month.
- Have we ever experienced a long period like this where we have not been reimbursed?
  - Yes, last year and in 2025 as well. It is a cause for concern, but they are confident that they will get caught up on payments.
- What is the radius for local vendors?
  - The Co-op's definition is 250 miles, including all of Pennsylvania and excluding Canada.
- Do you have any idea what a store like Whole Foods' sales are from local vendors?
  - Tyler doesn't have any figures, but historically co-ops generally have a higher percentage of sales from local vendors than national chains.
- Do you have any thoughts on why the member growth has been so up and down?
  - It is common to have a decline around the holidays, but it comes back up when the new year starts. It also declines or flatlines in the summer because that is a quieter time for us.

Decision: Desmond motioned to accept the A - Ends report as compliant. Second by Nick. There were no objections.

Committee Updates

Finance

Frank is still working on the charter. The goal is to approve the charter at next month's Board meeting.

BP&E/MOP

The Board is consolidating these two committees for the upcoming year. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 29th at 7:00p.m. The committee hosted another successful Game Night on April 15th. Desmond emailed the charter to all Directors before this meeting. No changes were made since it was last reviewed.

Nick motioned to approve the charter as written. Second by Michael. There were no objections.

Executive

The committee plans to meet next week to discuss the GM review.

Action Items

Directors reviewed the progress or lack thereof on Action Items from previous meetings.

Appreciations

Those in attendance took a moment to share their thanks.

Closing

Next Meeting: Monday, May 18th, 2026
Packet submissions due: Monday, May 11th, 2026

The meeting adjourned at 8:10p.m.

The Board entered Executive Session at 8:10p.m. to discuss the GM evaluation and the advisory referendum.