

Maple Corner Community Center Board Meeting

Jan 19, 2021, Zoom meeting/ also followup email vote to approve Bill Powell for post of treasurer.

Present: President Dirk Van Susteren, Carolyn Morton, Andrew Nemethy, Peter Burke, Debbie Clark, John Rosenblum, Steve Sweeney, Jamie Moorby, Olivia Gay, Meg Dawkins

Maple Corner Store

The MCCC Board heard from longtime community member, former MCCC board member and Maple Corner Store backer Olivia Gay about a proposal to form a “Friends of the Maple Corner Community Store” group under the auspices of the center. Her goal, she said, is to build community support for the store. (Background: The store was bought out in 2020 by a newly formed community group with local investors after private sale efforts by owners Artie and Nancy Toulis drew no buyers and concerns grew the store would close. The MCCC became a major stockholder in the new venture through donations under its non-profit status; The MCCC voted to get involved because the board agreed that under its charter goal to build community, saving the store was a worthy and appropriate goal. Legal advice was also obtained clearing the board’s decision to partner in the store purchase plan.)

Gay said she had been working on "outreach" because she felt the store needs to broaden its operations to gain "substantial community support" to thrive. She added that the "store is not in deep financial distress but its income has dipped." After the "rush of success" in successfully buying and transforming the store into a community enterprise, she said now she felt it was important to get wider buy-in to keep the momentum going for the store and reinforce its community connections.

Gay also explained that under the C-Corp business designation for the MCCS, there are complexities in getting volunteers to help out as they might at a co-op, and so she wanted to broach the idea of affiliating with the MCCC under the "umbrella" of its non-profit status. That could enable volunteer efforts and events tied to the store. In response to a question from John Roseblum, she added that the C-Corp designation does not inspire "community spirit naturally."

Considerable discussion about the idea ensued, all generally favorable. Debbie Clark said looking at the MCCS, "it feels sensible to be a sister with the community center." Gay agreed, noting connecting to an existing organization with similar goals makes the most sense.

Questions were asked about potential workload for the board and how donations to the MCCC for the group's efforts would be handled. Andrew Nemethy said he felt it

would be good to get a clearer sense of the goals and function of the proposed group. Gay agreed to come back to the board spelling out her ideas on what the group would do and how it would work.

Budget Discussion

Operations manager Jamie Moorby updated figures on the budget with the general assessment “we’re doing pretty well” considering the pandemic has mostly closed the MCCC since last March. While there is some sporadic rental income, costs have also greatly been reduced. Fundraising and rental income is only around \$200 while \$1,000 had been expected, she said. John Rosenblum said if the MCCC falls \$1000 short, it is acceptable in light of the potential health risks of trying to do a fundraiser.

Treasurer’s Post

Treasurer Steve Sweeney humorously recounted the strange transformation that has happened to someone who did books for a long time and has now hit retirement. “I’ve done accounting for 40 years and I just can’t do it anymore,” he said with a laugh, restating his desire to drop the job, but to stay on the board.

Moorby and VanSusteren indicated they had been asking potential candidates they knew without luck so far, but promised to keep plugging away to find someone in the community to fill the post.

Rosenblum, who previously held the post, said the workload is “not a whole lot” and Sweeney noted it really involve simple bookkeeping. “I think our basic procedures are good,” he said.

With no other business before the board, the zoom meeting was adjourned.

Email Vote to approve Bill Powell as MCCC treasurer - Feb. 1, 2021

MCCC president informed the board that Bill Powell had agreed to take on the important post of Treasurer, which is required by our charter. Instead of a separate zoom meeting to grant approval, without objection the board voted unanimously via email to approve the appointment of Powell to the board.

mail Vote to approve the formation of the Friends of the Maple Corner Community Store - January 30th, 2021

Following up on last weeks Zoom discussion of Olivia Gay's proposal to form the Friends of the Maple Corner Community Store as a committee of the Maple Corner Community Center, Olivia sent the board the following official proposal. Without objection, the Board voted unanimously via email to accept this proposal. The FOTMCCS will be chaired by Olivia Gay with John Rosenblum as the MCCC board representative.

Friends of the MCCC

Goals:

1) To engage the Maple Corner community, near and far, in

activities to build support and loyalty for the store.

2) To fundraise and promote special projects at the store, initially getting the Whammy Bar ready for reopening.

Organizational Structure:

The Friends of the Maple Corner Community Store (FOMCCS) is organized by a steering committee under the auspices of the Maple Corner Community Center (MCCC). Olivia Gay, MCCC Outreach Committee member, will chair the steering committee and recruit one or two other members from the community.

An MCCC board member will serve on the steering committee. John Rosenblum has agreed to do this instead of Jamie Moorby.

For an online presence, Steve Gallagher has agreed to ask members of the current MCCC FaceBook group if the name can be changed to FOMCCS. The focus will be on positive support and exchange of ideas for the store, and Steve and Olivia will co-moderate the group.

All FOMCCS projects will be reviewed by the MCCC Board and, as much as possible, will not add to their workload or that of the General Manager.

Activities for February/March:

1) Conversations with the Community - February
Phone calls to approximately 50 households in the store's geographic area, including both shareholders and non-shareholders, to engage people in conversation about what it means to have a community store. The anecdotal results will be collected into a public report. This not a marketing survey, and

any ideas or suggestions for the store will be directed to the MCCS Board or General Manager as appropriate.

2) Build FOMCCS membership and contact list - February/March
Actively recruit FOMCCS members through phone calls, emails, FB, word-of-mouth, FPF.

3) Organize an online community variety show. - February/March, in close collaboration with the MCCS Whammy Bar Committee.
The event will be free and any donations will go towards a specific relatively low-cost WB need.