**Notes from Membership Involvement Group Meeting**

**Thursday, November 9, 2023 CWLP Studio - 7:00 pm**

Attendees: Peter Gilles, Claude Laroche, David Park, Jim Kissick, Arleen Prost, Linda Vanderlee, Archie Smith, Blair Richardson, Irene Richardson, Virginie Mongeon, Phil Cohen, Monique Lalonde, Ellie Wilkinson, Karen Bays, Lindsay Farley, Jewel Cote, Bob Gibson, John Parker

Welcome and Land Acknowledgement - Virginie

Meeting Guidelines - Monique

Review of how we manage ourselves.

Discussion about guidelines might also apply to pre/post meeting – for example “show respect by answering emails.”

CWLP Cooperative Pamphlet

Monique shared with the group a DRAFT pamphlet she has created. It is bilingual and could be used in various ways to promote the cooperative, the Centre, and what we are about. The DRAFT pamphlet will be sent to all MING members inviting input.

Update on Volunteer Initiatives - Lindsay

Need vols for event support – next one is the 17th

Tech support required – potentially remunerative – long term commitment required to develop skills and learn the most current technology.

Long term commitment required for other jobs

“Volunteer lists are made regularly and seem to disappear”. Could a MING circle handle this?

Website not fully functionally around volunteer inquiries.

Masters Project with CWLP – Virginie

“scope is a work in progress”

Talks with the board suggesting goal of “developing a shared vision”

Project must be completed by April

News from the CWLP Board - John

Board has discussed interaction with members and MING

* Board Meetings are last Wed of each month, and open to the membership at the beginning of each meeting.
* Three spots open on the board – “what skills are needed”
* Need a MING rep (that is an active MING member who will join the board – Archie is interim)
* “What is the role of the MING rep”

By-Laws Information Session – Blair

Review of process to date – each of the previous and current boards has reviewed submissions from the MING Bylaw working group

Special Member Meeting 23Nov will vote on accepting the bylaws.

MING hopes to have a pre meeting (21Nov?) member info session, and interested parties can gather on 14 nov at 19:30 to help plan that info session.

Discussion about “is this the last kick at the by-law can for now?” Yes, noting that:

* The bylaws should be reviewed periodically – at least every two years.
* Possible changes which emerge from discussions going forward will be noted (how?) for the next bylaw review
* Board has the power in the short term to implement policies to compensate for missing policy. Many of the current changes addressed non-compliance with the Co-ops Act.

*Post meeting additions to notes made by individuals:*

*(Two versions)*

*It was noted that by-law changes can be recommended at the SGM on Nov 23 and voted on by the members. They can also be recommended at the AGM.*

*By-Law changes were not planned at the SGM on November 23. It was noted that the By-Laws had gone through a long process and basically approved by two Boards. Continual revision at this point was limiting and people would have a democratic right to vote for or against the By-Laws.*

Accomplishments of the "MINGlers" – Arleen

The sticky note exercise – “write one accomplishment and stick it on the white board” – yielded variations of the following:

* Established relationship with the board
* Built trust among stakeholders
* Increased public awareness about the centre
* Bylaws updated and compliant

Arleen also presented her own list which in addition to the above noted:

* Established a functional, inclusive mechanism for supporting the board
* Interacted positively with staff
* Collaborated with CDROL (including training)
* Successfully lobbied for better website accessibility for members
* INSPIRED HOPE!, and an ATTITUDE of GRATITUDE

Moving Forward – Karen

NOTE – This activity was foreshortened due to lack of time.

Karen affirmed that MING has been successful in its emergency mandate to help the struggling spring 2023 board. She challenged us to think “what is next?”

We split into circles as per the Feb 2023 agreed upon configuration.

Each group revisit circle aims and the MING our processes

Circles then reported back on next steps.

Next Meeting

Likely January. Circles encouraged to meet before hand.

Meeting Notes by Peter Gillies with feedback incorporated.