

**ST. JOSEPH FARMER'S MARKET
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

MINUTES OF DECEMBER 4, 2006

REGULAR MEETING

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a regular meeting of the St. Joseph Farmer's Market Board was held on December 4, 2006 at the Stone House Restaurant in St. Joseph, MN. President Bernie Evans called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Bernie Evans, Mary Niefenfuier, Lori Roggenkamp, Jon Ness, Steve Saupe, LuAnn Otto, Shelly Carlson, and Mary Degiovanni

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: John Hooper

OTHERS PRESENT: Bill Otto

MINUTES

Bernie pointed out a typographical error for correction and then a motion was made by Steve and seconded by Mary N. to adopt the minutes of November 6, 2006 as corrected. The motion carried unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Board members were announced and Bernie circulated a list for review and updating of Board member contact information.

Bernie also stated that the MFVGA had requested a list of our membership for purposes of providing information on their conferences, etc. The Board approved providing that information.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. **TREASURER:** Steve reported on the monthly financials and reminded Board members that the 2007 budget should be approved at the next meeting.
2. **ADVERTISING/PROMOTION:** New members are LuAnn & Mary N. – no report this month.
3. **EDUCATION/ENTERTAINMENT:** New members are Lori & Shelly – no report this month.
4. **RECRUITMENT:** John & Jon will remain on this committee. Jon reported their plans to generate a flyer for 2007 recruiting. Mary N. will also try to add a member recruitment theme to an upcoming *Beet*.
5. **MEETINGS ATTENDED:** Bill & LuAnn visited with Farmer John from the Austin/Albert Lea market.

OLD BUSINESS

1. **FALL MEMBERSHIP MEETING:** The meeting was not well attended so ideas ranged from providing a follow up telephone call reminding members of the meeting to possibly not holding a Fall meeting in the future. It was agreed we would discuss this with the

membership at the annual Spring meeting. The general consensus of those present was that 2006 was a good year for the market.

2. WINTER MARKET: The November winter market had lots of vendors and those present thought the customer volume was higher than in November of 2005.

NEW BUSINESS

1. COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP: Already established as noted above.
2. MEETING DATES: The following meeting dates were agreed upon:
 - A. Board meetings will continue on the first Monday of each month at 7:00 pm at the Stonehouse Restaurant.
 - B. The Annual Spring Membership meeting will be held on April 12, 2007 at the Fire Hall (alternate dates: April 10, April 17)
 - C. The Annual Fall Membership meeting, if held, will be on November 15, 2007 at the Fire Hall (alternate dates: November 8)
 - D. The Harvest Festival will be held on September 14, 2007
3. MARKET SEASON DATES AND HOURS: The market will begin on May 11, 2007. There was some discussion of ending at 6:00 instead of 6:30 pm, but signage will not be easy to change. No change was made at this time.
4. RULES AND POLICIES REVIEW: Bernie circulated our Mission Statement and summarized the statement Terri had provided to Board members last month indicating her sales were down this year and that changing our rules to allow other items to be sold may increase sales. The consensus of those present at the Fall membership meeting was that sales were not down in 2006 so the Board discussed whether any changes were needed. The consensus was to try recruiting two additional vendors to bring our total to 5. We felt this would provide a greater diversity of products but still stay true to our mission and keep the balance in favor of farmers selling their produce. Future discussion will include whether vendors should be allowed to be members and how we should structure our fees for 2007. No changes were proposed to the rules or mission, but the Board agreed we would all work to find a couple of new members in areas we want to see at the market such as additional meat sellers, dairy, etc. to try to bring our total growers/vendors to 30.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was set for January 8, 2007 to avoid conflicting with the New Year's Holiday.

ADJOURN

President Evans adjourned the meeting at 8:45 PM.

Minutes By:

Mary Degiovanni, Secretary