Food Matters Manitoba Board Meeting

October 25, 2022 – 5 pm

Present: Kirsten Earl McCorrister (Chair), Alison McCullough-Butchart (Vice-Chair), Curtis Brown (Secretary), Erin Crymble (Treasurer), Ramogi Nyonje, Cynthia Neudoerffer, Demian Lawrenchuk (Executive Director),

Regrets: Kaylee Michnik, Michael Salomons, Michelle Finley

**Agenda:**

1. Welcome & Land Acknowledgement
2. Approval of meeting agenda
3. Financial Report
4. Executive Director Update
5. New Business
   1. Strategic planning
   2. Fundraising discussion
   3. Other committee updates
6. In Camera
7. Adjournment

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| 1. Welcome, Introductions & Land Acknowledgement   Kirsten called the meeting to order at 5:06 pm. | | | | |
| 2. Approval of meeting agenda | | Moved by: Alison  Seconded by: Ramogi | **CARRIED** | |
| 3. Financial Report and Approval  Motion: To approve the Q2 financial statements for Food Matters Manitoba (FMM) | | Moved by: Erin  Seconded by: Alison | **CARRIED**  Abstained: Cynthia | |
| Erin provided a high level overview of the current balance sheet and profit and loss statement. Additional information regarding actual spending vs. budget will be provided in the coming weeks.  Demian’s previous job is currently vacant and Kristen asked whether this position should remain vacant for the time being. Demian indicated the gap of that position is being filled for the time being. | | |
| 4. Executive director’s update | | Raising the profile of FMM:   * FMM is consistently posting on social media to highlight community programs. Staff are also having a presence at different events – Demian met with Maple Leaf Foods in Toronto at a conference, which is helping inform grant proposal writing.   Fundraising:   * Donations are on an upward trend overall. * Several proposals out right now with several private and public funders, including Max Bell Foundation, Maple Leaf Foods, Canadian Red Cross and the Northern Healthy Food Initiatives (NHFI), among others. Some of these are for specific equipment for programs, which can help shift funding to core operations. * Also speaking with organizations such as the Lawson Foundation ($20,000 proposal), Sprott Foundation, Reliance Products, Northwest Company, Harvest Manitoba   Capacity/Staffing:   * Creating partnership with the University of Manitoba to engage longer-term student volunteers   Relationships   * Developing and showing employment (via honoraria) in several northern communities.   Additional Issue – Special NHFI Funding   * Demian indicated a current proposal before NHFI is stalled. In late summer, get core funding of $350,000, as well as an extra $140,000 into operations. Also funding available for proposals for more specific community projects (hunting activities). Having a very frustrating situation where we put in a proposal and get questions and it’s approved. Question came from Minister asking if aware of the sensitivities regarding moose hunting and populations in decline in certain areas. A detailed response was provided and three weeks later were asked about moose closure zones again. There is a concern that programs related to hunting and fishing may face additional restrictions accessing funding. * Board members recommended FMM staff continue to keep a close eye on this issue and follow up on where the funding application is and how it can be approved, as well as report back to the board on the situation as it unfolds. | | |
| **Action Items** | | **Who** | **When** | |
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| 5. New Business | | | | |
| 1. **Strategic planning** | Kirsten indicated the strategic planning for board and staff will take place on Nov. 19 (location TBD). An online survey will be sent out later in the week regarding strategic priorities that will be used to inform the in-person discussion. The goal is to look at existing strategic priorities and identify where FMM needs to pivot so it has 4-5 strategic directions that come from the board and are implemented by staff. | | | |
| **Action Items** | **Who** | | | **When** |
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| 1. **Fundraising** | Demian provided a more in-depth discussion regarding fundraising and the previous fundraising plan, which would involve the board members helping to pick up this plan and execute it. There may be an opportunity for board members to identify and start conversations with specific organizations and then connect them to Demian.  The website is currently being updated (to include the Food Action Hub) and should be done before the end of January. Some specific pages on the website may require some immediate tweaks so that funders see this information.  Ramogi mentioned that he nominated FMM for a Canada Life fundraising program that will be voted upon in the coming weeks. | | | |
| **Action Items** | **Who** | | | **When** |
| Board members to approach funders – to look at list and use collateral (to be finalized by executive director and fundraising committee) to contact organizations | Fundraising committee (and rest of board) | | | ASAP |
| 1. **Other committee business** | There were no additional updates from other committees | | | |
| **Action Items** | **Who** | | | **When** |
| n/a | n/a | | | n/a |
| 1. **Board recruitment** | Kirsten has put together some information to recruit up to four potential board members that will be reviewed by the executive. | | |  |
| **Action Items** | **Who** | | | **When** |
| Review recruitment materials | Executive | | | ASAP |
| Pass along information once finalized | All board members | | | November-December |

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| **In Camera**  The board went in camera at 6:22 pm |

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| **Adjournment**  Kirsten moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:36 pm |