**Minutes of CHEA Board of Directors Meeting, Tuesday, October 7, 2014**

at Sasona Coop, 2604 Paramount, Ave., Austin, TX 78704

Donny Goff called the meeting to order at 8:56 p.m.

Present: Donny “The Enforcer” Goff, Board Chair, Abigail Tatkow, Community Representative, Clayton Matthews, Treasurer, Hannah Wright, Secretary, Andy Goosley, Member of La Reunion, Ruth Sullivan, Member of Sasona.

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| **Agenda** | **Action** | **Comment** |
| Approval of previous meeting’s minutes. | Donny moves to approve; Clayton seconds; approved by consensus. |  |
| Planning for visit from Rek Kwawer of NASCO in October. |  | NASCO Properties Representative, Rek Kwawer, will be in Austin, and would like to visit La Reunion and/or Sasona, the weekend of October 11 and 12.  Sasona talked about this at a previous house meeting. Rek has been to Sasona before, has not visited La Reunion yet.  Rek also asked for suggestions for trainings. Sasona bounced around some ideas at house meeting--one idea was about recognizing and halting racism and sexism.  Historically, what kinds of trainings has NASCO done at Sasona? Ruth mentions Austin Coop history, mediation and nonviolent communication, answering specific questions (ex: threats of lawsuit, that needed input).  Since some members may not really understand what NASCO is, maybe it would be best for a general Q + A session with Rek, that could also get into more specific questions about co-op life here in Austin, depending on the interests of the group.  Abigail wonders if Brian Donovan and Rek Kwawer are in contact?  **Action item for Donny:** connect Brian Donovan and Rek Kwawer via email, since Rek will soon be in Austin. Invite Rek to dinner at La Reunion, followed by a Q + A session, and the regularly scheduled house meeting.  If all goes well, Rek will be at La Reunion on Sunday, October 12, from 5:30-7:00 p.m., for a brief tour, dinner, and a brief Q + A session.  Sasoonies are invited to join :-) |
| Tabling for CHEA at Austin Cooperative Business Association Co-op Fair, Sunday, October 12, 1-5 pm. |  | As it turns out, tabling is free at the Co-op Fair.  The ‘sponsorship’ was $150, which put the organization’s name on a banner.  Clayton will go to represent CHEA. Will invite Oliver.  Maybe interested Sasoonies could make a CHEA banner out of some of paper in the dining room, Saturday, post-brunch! |
| Treasurer update. | PUNTED until next budget cycle. March or April 2015. | Clayton went to Velocity and got the scoop on cards associated with CHEA accounts.  Clayton also deposited maintenance check, and will reimburse La Re.  Also tried to link accounts, so that it would be easier for Ryan and Nicole to pay CHEA lease online, instead of physically. However, cannot link accounts going only one way (i.e. money goes in, but not out). Bummer.  Will tell Ryan about online bill pay. For the first time, Velocity will send a physical check. In the address section, will have to write to send it to Velocity, then they will deposit it for us. After that physical connection has been made, they will do a two day hold, and it will automatically get transferred. THEN, no one has to go to the bank to pay CHEA! YAAASSS!!!  Clayton is already doing online bill pay to NASCO.  Ruth: her parents have given her money, to her account, and it just shows up. They just know the account number, and they can put in money.  Nicole got a different answer, thought we could link one way. But when Clayton asked, they said the signers on both accounts would have to be the same. Would make things even more confusing.  Once the physical link is set up, it will be ok. Online bill pay, hooray!  As for the cards associated with the accounts… There was potential fraud on one maintenance account. It was because Home Depot got hacked. Automatic fraud detection. Getting a new Sasona maintenance card.  Clayton cancelled an old Sasona maintenance card because no one knew where it was. There is still another card. Will cancel old card once new card is active.  Velocity is also sending all new food shopper cards, since the names on the card don’t match the actual people who are doing the shopping.  Is there any way to simplify this kind of thing? Could Rek help with this conundrum?  Clayton has determined that there is one card for main Sasona account, there will be one card for Sasona maintenance account, we will have two new shopper cards, one card for main CHEA account, and two cards each for La Re main account and La Re maintenance account.  This is infernally complicated.  Would separate banks be easier?  Who knows. For now, we are dealing with it through Velocity.  About Sasona’s loan: Daniel sent Clayton the original statement. We are a little under ½ way done. ~200 / mo, is a 15-year loan. We still have eight or nine years left.  We have $13,500 left to pay.  We could talk about refinancing. 6.5% is the current rate. We could pay more each monht, especially if La Re chipped in, paying from CHEA level.  At current rate, the loan will be paid off by August 30, 2023. There is no penalty on paying it out faster.  Loan Sasona took out when it, for all intents and purposes, was CHEA.  Ruth reminds us that Sasona had to take that loan out because this was before the vacancy fund existed as it does now. Co-ops were supposed to set aside money for vacancies, but times got hard, and the vacancy fund was neglected. Then, several people screwed over Sasona. Sasona is still paying for mistakes made. Has meaning in the present.  Ruth sees it as a cautionary tale.  Andy and Donny agree that it could also be used it as an anecdote for La Reunion, a cautionary tale for them, too.  We could potentially change the amount that houses pay to CHEA, for the lease, per month.  We will table this item until it is time to come up with Maintenance Allocation System numbers.  Sasona has been okay paying for it, and will be okay paying for it until something changes.  CHEA account is still copacetic. Treasurer, over and out! |
| Party planning for October, Cooperative Month: location. | Discussion. | Donny: talked to La Re, two Sundays ago, proposed a party for October 18, they agreed to have it at La Re. Then, this past week, they decided for the party to be on Halloween, Friday the 31st.  Clayton: Sasona is going to have birthday party in the next few weeks. CHEA co-op fair is this coming weekend. Feeling like he might be partied out.  When weather is good, La Re is perfect for a party.  **Action item for Donny:** connect event planners Emily, of Sasona, and Beth, of La Reunion, to start talking about a Halloween party at La Re.  Could maybe combine forces, into a birthday halloween party? |
| Scholarship for co-opers, from CHEA, to help fund trip to NASCO Institute. | Discussion. | What is the scoop on scholarships? NASCO is giving $800 for both houses. There are also individual scholarships. Don’t know if it is claimed/allocated.  Right now, CHEA does not have extra funds for scholarships. $800 is enough to drive cross-country already. Is a month from today.  Might be an idea to consider for next year?  Daphne was interested in learning about scholarships. A few people asked at La Re about status of scholarship money.  Ruth mentions that it can be doable to go to Institute with little to no money, because the main costs are travel and food while you there.  Additionally, Oliver and Sam are presenting a workshop. Travel for them might be free, since they are presenting, which would not count for $800 scholarship from NASCO.  Individuals from both houses who are interested in applying for the NASCO scholarships can follow up with Daniel. We should also try to help connect people who are going together, co-op caravan :-)  **Action item for Donny, Hannah, and Clayton:** tell La Reuninistas to get on NASCO website to apply for Institute scholarships. Hannah and Clayton will let Sasoonies know the same. |
| Edits and recommendations for the MemCo-Steward Subcommittee Report. | Discussion. Edits are on-going. | Is harder than Hannah anticipated. Will continue to edit. There is a lot of good information captured in those documents.  **Action item for Hannah:** continue editing, ask for input from Thad, if possible, and ask Alanna about any missing information regarding Sasona’s MemCo position. |

**New Business:**

Andy: Google Fiber coming to Austin! Has already asked La Re about interest, and ther was complete consensus to reach out to CHEA, to sign us up as an inquiry for Google Fiber. Ruth/Donny filled out the form for Sasona. Donny/Andy will fill out for La Reunion. Is only an inquiry, so we will see what we hear back.

Abigail: has been thinking about expansion and networking.

1. Co-op map: there are so many co-ops in Austin. What if we had a map of all the co-ops in the city?
2. Additionally, co-op networking is great, especially for connecting people to jobs. How can we strengthen this?
3. What if we did a co-op tour, by bikes? Could pick a different location, north one week, south the next week, for a kind of food/drink tour at different co-ops. We could kick such a tour off by touring housing co-ops… Food for thought.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, October 21, 2014, @ 8:45 p.m.

Held at La Reunion Coop, 7910 Gault St., Austin, TX

Meeting adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

Hannah Wright, Secretary

**Agenda for CHEA Board of Directors Meeting, Tuesday, October 21, 2014, @ 8:45 p.m.**

To be held at La Reunion Coop, 7910 Gault St., Austin, TX

1. Finalizing Halloween party at La Reunion.
2. Treasurer report.
3. MemCo / Steward Summit Report, edited edition.
4. Meeting the new board rep of La Re!
5. Thinking about connecting with other housing co-ops, for a tour.