

Minutes
Durango Farmers Market
General Membership
Spring Meeting
February 10, 2010

Present: Dan James (President), Cindy Schroeder (Treasurer), Marje Cristol (Secretary), Sara Buscaglia, Mike Jensen (Board Members), Peg Redford (Market Manager), Linda Mannix, Kay James, Jillian Grandfield, Chuck and Kelly Thompson, Brad and Kari Milligin, Peg George, Michael and Diane Schwebach, Jennifer Craig, Darrin Parmenter, Darsi Olson, Jodi Underwood, Chris Ricci, Karen Mee, Tom Cramer, Ashley Bailey, Jim and Pam Dyer, Eliza Searles, Suzy Maynard, Rosie Carter, Chuck Barry, Emily and Mike Jensen, Bobby and Shelley Sutherland, Cindy and Mel Matis, Holly Napier

1. The general members were welcomed and Board Members introduced.
2. Darrin announced the Local Food Connection and the Iron Horse Chef events planned for this season. He requested monetary support and planning assistance for the latter event.
3. Treasurer report. Available to the general membership upon request.
4. Budget Reviewed in detail with the membership. Available upon request.
5. Discussion of goals for the market: ideas included having a “rainy day fund” in the bank. Considering investment of a portion of that in short term investments. Applying for a 5013.C non-profit status to allow the Market to vie for grants. Increasing advertising in broader prints and radio media. Using some of the funds for micro loans to member agriculturalists. Confirming adequate liability insurance for the market, providing infrastructure to allow an extended season, supporting a location move, which would allow expansion of the size of the market over time.
6. Saturday Market location. We are at maximum capacity in our current location for 3 months of the season. We have had growth in the number of agricultural producers and in the request for extra space per vendor. Discussion was held regarding options to manage the space issues. These included move of the market to another location such as: Centennial Plaza, the Transit Center, 2nd Avenue, the Fairgrounds, or enlarging the occupancy at the Bank by incorporating the west drive through lane. Consensus was to try to stay at the current location but consider expansion of the Market footprint. There were recommendations from the membership as how best to incorporate the west land, including creating a larger food and music area with seating provided. Ready to eat food providers were concerned that this may have a negative impact on their businesses.

7. Wednesday Market. Last season's mid week market was not well attended by customers. There is an invitation from Ecologic Events to participate in a Wed evening event during the summer months planned in downtown Durango. This event is to include local restaurant and breweries, music, and would be a venue for DFM as well. Booth fees would go to the organizer. Further information regarding participation in this event is pending.

8. Modification of vendor fees for the DFM was discussed. Consensus was to increase fees for both non-ag and agricultural vendors equally. The Board will consider an increase in the season cap to \$300.

9. A summary of changes to the Rules and Regulations was given. These include clarification of the responsibilities of the Board of Directors in terms of amendments to the Rules and Regulations. The Board makes decisions to accept or revoke membership. Clarifies grounds for suspension. Non Ag-vendors must produce their merchandise within the 5 county region, craft vendors are to re-apply annually, with no guarantee given previous participation. There is a plan to rotate craft vendors throughout the regular season. New requirements exist for meat, poultry, processed food and plant vendors. Food vendors are to attach licenses and proof of liability insurance to their application.

There was a general discussion of the requirement for liability insurance for individual members. There was concern raised that requiring proof of licensure for a product would place further liability on the Market.

10. The proposed By-law changes were read and voted upon. They were passed and are available on the website for review.

11. A vote was held to elect new members for the Board. Out-going members include: Sara Buscaglia, Cindy Schroeder, and Marje Cristol. Elected by a majority vote, per By-law requirements were: Richard Parry, Chuck Barry, and Bobby Sutherland. Their terms will be two years.

12. Other: suggestion was made to create Friends of the Market or Community Advisory Board to assist the Farmers Market in carrying out its mission.