



February 18, 2025
CFAC Election Meeting

John Boner Community Center, Windsor Room, 6-7:30 pm

Present: Art Taylor, Tim Dwyer, Charles Hammond, Natalie Donahue, MariCruz “Luna”, Amber Quinn, “Sam” Cynthia Woods, Harrison Jacobo, Fain Earl, Katherine Boyles, Antjuan Finch, Lashonda McKinney, Tawanda Gardfrey, Sherdexia Yarde, Xavia Skelton, Audrey Jones, Ariez

Chair: Tim Dwyer

Notes: Charles Hammond

No written agenda, but Charles, acting as Secretary pro tem, had announced the meeting widely—to CFAC members and a list of 1,100 local food equity advocates—as a new election to fill the four vacancies in the President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary roles. Following the principle of inclusivity, that announcement invited all recipients to become members of CFAC.

In the absence of a formal agenda, Charles and Tim proposed the first two motions below, and they planned to subsequently conduct brief presentations by the four people who had submitted forms declaring their candidacy for the top two leadership positions, President and V-P.

Motion by Tim to postpone the election two weeks passed 14 yes, 2 no.

Motion by Charles to set the length of term at 6 months for those elected in this special election never came to a vote. Art argued for the one-year term stipulated in the by-laws. Then, the discussion entered into heated arguments about the integrity of the by-laws.

A motion by Harrison to discuss who comprises the 21-member voting body and how to fill the vacancies was replaced by Lashonda’s motion to have the 3 CFAC-nominated Commissioners contact existing voting members, track their engagement, and compile a list of voting member vacancies. Lashonda’s motion passed 8 yes, 0 no.

Spontaneous discussions. The meeting did not allow the four leadership candidates to make their presentations as planned. Instead, it turned into a half hour of statements and heated arguments about adherence to the by-laws and status of the 21-member voting body and its voting outcomes considering the lack of quorum at meetings.

Sam spoke extensively about the importance of understanding her need—as a self-described “elder who’s been hungry [and is] mad as hell”—to be heard. When three members got swept up into an exchange of potentially injurious language, one of them delivered an extended monologue on the importance of standing up to verbal battle, the psychology of respect, and the diversity of communication styles.

After failed attempts to redirect the meeting back to election topics, Fain and Harrison left the meeting. Charles prepared to leave also, but ended up staying. At that point, online attendees lost contact since the Google Meet account was on Fain's computer.

Retreat planning. In the last 20 minutes, Luna described plans for the healing and relationship building retreat. It will be a two-day event, March 22 and 23, including improv, community building, and radical openness activities, Katherine applauded the idea and asked who would be invited. Luna replied that the retreat would be open to all, but that there would still be some discussion about that topic.

Closing round table. Charles asked for a closing remark round table. What did everyone learn at the meeting? What did you get out of the meeting? CH: I learned about the different communication styles and needs of people. TD: I learned that I don't want to continue working with CFAC. KB: Coming into the meeting I was very nervous about an election taking place today, but coming out, I am very hopeful about the retreat agenda Luna put together. AT: We voted to postpone the election two weeks. Sam: [satisfied that she had been heard.] ML: Inevitability of conflict. Learn from it and move on to become a remarkable movement. AQ: Conflict is unavoidable in this kind of nonprofit. Working through conflict will make the organization stronger. ND: Pushing the election back was the right decision. Meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm.