



*Shanti Ceane*



*Jennifer Johnston  
President*



*Jean-Robert Béffort  
Vice-President*



*Laurie Anderson  
Treasurer*



*Julianna Flynn*

# Relocation and Expansion Update

*By Laurie Anderson in Collaboration with the Co-op Board of Directors*

In the July *Garbanzo Gazette*, Jennifer Johnston wrote about the beginnings of the Coop Board's deliberations regarding the purchase of the Life Quest Building (first introduced as a possibility at the Annual Meeting/picnic in May). At the time of this writing, we (the Silver City Food Co-op) had not yet finalized the purchase of the Life Quest Building. An offer had been made but your Board of Directors was still in the process of doing due diligence with inspections, investigation of financing options, and consideration of remodeling options.

Your Board of Directors and General Manager came to relatively quick consensus on making an offer on the building. The location was right, the property had great potential for further expansion, and the property was offered at a price which was well within our ability to afford. There are three factors which are driving the need to expand: Traffic access to the store, parking, and space in the store (for staff, for inventory, for processing, for customers). The move would address all three of these primary drivers.

Decisions on how much we can afford to invest in remodeling, how we should finance the remodeling, and who should oversee the project are proving to be much more difficult to make. Some board members and member/owners feel we should go for an extensive remodel, which would cost considerably more upfront but which may be more likely to increase sales, bring in new members, and limit the need for additional remodeling in the near future. Others feel that we should go with a more conservative approach which would involve remodeling just enough to make the move into the new store and reusing as many of the current equipment and fixtures as possible. The rationale behind this approach is that it would cost less, be less risky and we would be more likely to make the loan payments without an increase in sales. Then, gradually, we would consider further improvements and expansions if and when increases in sales make this possible. There are pros and cons to both approaches and your Board of Directions is putting a great deal of time and energy into making the best decision possible for the long term health of our cooperative grocery.

We are aware that both Management and the Board Members lack the level of expertise which would be ideal to have in overseeing a major remodeling of this kind. We have established an ad hoc committee that is charged with looking at what the scope of work would be for a project manager. In addition, we are considering different options for financing the remodeling project and are seeking outside expertise to help guide our decisions.

These will not be easy decisions or ones that we will make lightly. As your Board, it is our responsibility to make this decision but we would invite and appreciate your input. We have received some input from members/owners regarding this project but not to the extent that we would have expected. This expansion plan is just one of the many, many issues affecting the Co-op that will have an effect on you as member/owners. If you come to a Board meeting and speak, you will be heard. If you think that your input is likely to take more than a few minutes, you can ask in advance to be on the agenda. Alternatively, you can send your comments to [board@silvercity-foodcoop.coop](mailto:board@silvercity-foodcoop.coop).

In June, we decided as a Board to experiment with having our traditional decision making meetings only every other month and holding discussion/brainstorming meetings on the other months with limited decision making. It is our hope that these alternative meetings will allow more time for in depth discussions between the board members and management and provide more time for member/owner questions and comments. Our first experimental meeting was held on July 18th and our next one is expected to be on the third Wednesday in September. It would be great to see many of our member/owners there. ❖❖❖

## Board Meeting Schedule

The SCFC Board of Directors meets the third Wednesday of each month at the Volunteer Center on 13th Street at 4:30 pm.

Ten minutes is set aside at the beginning of every board meeting for member comments. The time will be divided evenly among those members who would like to speak. If ten minutes is insufficient, a special meeting may be called on another day. If a member wants more time, they can contact the president and ask to be added to the agenda. Please make this request at least one week before the meeting.

**Jennifer Johnston/President**

Board Term: 2018-2021  
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**Board of Directors**