Grain Train (GT) Natural Food Cooperative
Board of Directors Meeting – August 18, 2026
Zoom (https://zoom.us/j/91283382662) | Time: 5:30 p.m.

In Attendance: Katie Hartlieb, Erik Hagstrom, Paula Welmers, Lindsay Hall, Greg Fuller, Jason LaPointe, Margaret McBride, Cathy Atchison, Michael Walter (CEO), Sean Miller (staff), Mindy Taylor (staff)

Absent: Kendall Hornsby

Ends Statement

Grain Train Natural Foods Cooperative exists so that our community is inspired to make well-informed, healthy choices that support both people and planet.

Meeting Called to order
- Called to order at 5:36 p.m. — Quorum determined.

Preliminaries:
Agenda Review/Modification - Per Katie, the agenda was modified to add patronage and C4 to board decisions. However, C4 was later tabled to September's board meeting. Discussion about the 2027 Cents of Community was also added to general business.

Open Member Forum: N/A

Consent Agenda:
June Meeting Minutes

C3

A motion was made to approve both the June minutes and C3 report by Paula. Cathy seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Board Decisions
CEO Reports - July and August
Michael reported that the Grain Train is approaching 4,000 owners in good standing, averaging 35–37 new owners per month, with sales showing renewed growth in July and August. Year-to-date, Boyne City sales are up 14% and Petoskey is up about 5%, with a new produce distributor, CPW, and a large cooler installation planned for next month that will require a temporary closure on Tuesday the 15th. The team is also preparing patronage, with approximately $15,000 being returned to owners based on purchases, while new servers have been ordered to replace aging equipment. CPW appears to be a positive partnership for both the Grain Train and Oryana, and as a result, the Grain Train will no longer be using Indy Fruits as a supplier.

B1 and B6
Michael and Tyler submitted these reports and met with the finance committee to talk about outcomes. Much discussion was also held on the turnaround the Boyne City store has seen in the last year.

Paula made a motion to approve both B1 and B6 reports. Lindsay seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

C4
Discussions on the C4 report were tabled to next month's (September's) meeting.

General Business
GOM Review
Cathy presented the GOM overview/report. She highlighted marketing's recommendations on voting, Michael's project schedule as a valuable tool for keeping everyone on task, and said the food, business meeting, and overall event went very well, with only a few tweaks needed to make next year run more smoothly.

Coffee With The Board/Cents of Community
Maggie shared the event was a positive experience, with her and Paula connecting with nearly everyone who came into the store and about half taking a treat or coffee. Paula noted that having two people present seemed important. The board discussed holding another event in September, potentially toward the end of the month to highlight the new produce department. The board also briefly discussed how to help promote Cents of Community and encourage nominations for 2027.

Early Board Retreat Discussions
Katie shared that the retreat committee has begun developing ideas and potential agenda topics, including team building and content from the board consultants. Several November dates were discussed, with the committee planning to follow up with the board on a final date, and the board agreed that inviting senior leadership to this year's retreat would be a great idea.

Vote on Boyne City
Paula made a motion to postpone this vote until next month's meeting to allow Michael more time to give the board a current update on the Boyne City store's turnaround and answer other raised questions. Maggie seconded. Motion passed.

Committee Assignments
The board looked at the current committee assignments.
Katie will be updating the current GT Committee Work Big Picture spreadsheet to finalize committee assignments.

Next steps are for committees to meet, decide on chairs and then to give any reports on where the committee is going before the next board meeting in Sept.

SWOT Analysis
Ari, one of the board consultants, put together a SWOT analysis which the board decided, for time's sake, to roll into their closed sessions discussions.

Closed Session
Greg made a motion to move into closed session. Paula seconded. Motion passed.

Cathy made a motion to end closed session. Greg seconded. Motion passed

Katie made a motion to adjourn. Greg seconded. Motion passed.

Meeting Adjourned
Meeting adjourned *at: 7:37 p.m.*