

**Wednesday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014—We don't know what the Board's reaction will be at the upcoming Board meeting, Monday evening, September 22<sup>nd</sup>. Struggle to even get on their agenda; they say there is a "new business" agenda item at the end of their 2-hour meeting where members can bring up any issues, if time permits and anyone hangs around that long. Board indicates it will simply ignore petition and go back to business as usual; they will not resign. Democracy, we are finding in its battle against entrenched power, has very little power to effect change.**

In time-chronological order (not reverse email reply order)

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Date: 9/16/2014 3:33 PM [Tuesday, before upcoming Monday the 22<sup>nd</sup> Board meeting, where we will formally deliver the petition signatures and see what happens.]

From: Root

To: DNF Outreach Coordinator [Brett]

Cc: Pat

Subject: Board Meeting Venue - Sept 22nd

Hi Brett,

Pat and I have found confusing information on the DNF website regarding the next Board meeting, which showed September 22<sup>nd</sup> on the Board Meeting page; but September 15<sup>th</sup> on the calendar. I have called you about, which you updated this afternoon; thanks for that Brett, because it had the wrong date for the meeting presenting confusion to the members.

The issue now is the venue. We are expecting a very large crowd at this meeting, so the usual meeting place at the little red house next to DNF won't work. Pat has checked on the library, but their rooms are not available. The Rocky Mountain Retreat (FYI: the name does not include the word "Center") on 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue is available, as was originally planned. However Pat needs to get a formal request from Victoria via email ([PRBlair@Bresnan.net](mailto:PRBlair@Bresnan.net)) to book that room for our meeting, the same place as the August 18<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Please ask Victoria, as Board Secretary, to email Pat with a request for the room; or if at this late date she has some other large venue, that would work as well. The DNF location will not work as we expect as many petition signers as possible to come (we are notifying and requesting all 205 to show up). You can reply to all, forwarding to Victoria, to keep Pat and me in the loop.

Thanks very much,  
Root

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Date: 9/17/2014 10:58 AM [Wednesday, before upcoming Monday the 22<sup>nd</sup> Board meeting, where we will formally deliver the petition signatures and see what happens.]

From: DNF Outreach Coordinator [Brett]

To: Root

Subject: Board Meeting Venue - Sept 22nd

Root,

I got an email back from Victoria and they will be holding the meeting in the DNF office across the parking lot from DNF. I guess it's going to be pretty cozy!

Brett Massé  
Design Lead  
Durango Natural Foods Co-op

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Date: 9/17/2014 11:12 AM [Wednesday, before upcoming Monday the 22<sup>nd</sup> Board meeting, where we will formally deliver the petition signatures and see what happens.]

From: Root

To: Pat, Kim, Guthrie

Subject: FW: Board Meeting Venue - Sept 22<sup>nd</sup> [Root forwards Brett's response from Board]

Pat, they must think we're just going to go away. How do you think we should deal with this?

Root

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Date: 9/17/2014 1:58 PM [Wednesday, before upcoming Monday the 22<sup>nd</sup> Board meeting, where we will formally deliver the petition signatures and see what happens.]

From: Root

To: DNF Outreach Coordinator [Brett]

Cc: Pat, Kim, Guthrie, DNF Board, DNF GM Brian, *The Herald*, *The Telegraph*

Subject: RE: Board Meeting Venue - Sept 22<sup>nd</sup>

Hi Brett,

It is unfortunate the Board has chosen to not easily accommodate a large member turnout at the upcoming Board meeting, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, by not using a larger venue. We have continued to hear complaints from this Board how difficult it has been to get members involved; yet when we do, their involvement by attending and wanting to speak to the Board are slighted in this disrespectful and unnecessary way. Several members want to address the Board and this impacts their ability to do that.

Given this Board decision to hold the meeting at an inadequate location, we will let people know they can expect to either be crowded in while standing and/or overflowing into the parking lot. Please change the website in big print (removing all references to Rocky Mountain Retreat), post it in big print on the co-op bulletin board, and put it in your weekly email blast to all members that a large turnout is expected.

Sincerely,  
Root Routledge  
Pat Blair

**[9/17 2:57 PM:** Missy Votel of *The Telegraph* responds to cc, says they've already gone to press with old location information.

**9/17 5:21 PM:** Root replies:

Sorry this happened Missy. We have no control over what this Board is doing. We'll put up signs at Rocky Mountain Retreat to go to DNF. There will probably be dozens and dozens of people in the parking lot demanding the Board's removal and to speak at the meeting. That should be good press, so

maybe you can have someone casually drop by with a camera. I think Dale from the Herald will be coming.

I'm cc-ing you and the Herald to keep you abreast (FYI) of what our large group communications are and what we're doing. By the way, Pat has received several calls about the outrageously negative personal attack made by Jim Forleo at Kim. I found out from another Board member that the entire Board 'bought off' on his slanderous letter; none of it true. This will all be coming out shortly with proof.  
Root]

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Date: 9/17/2014 3:40 PM [Wednesday, before upcoming Monday the 22<sup>nd</sup> Board meeting, where we will formally deliver the petition signatures and see what happens.]

From: DNF Outreach Coordinator [Brett]

To: Root

Subject: RE: Board Meeting Venue - Sept 22nd

Root,

I was able to speak with Brian on some further details about the meeting. The previous meetings' locations were changed in order to accommodate those interested in discussing the proposed merger. Because the merger is no longer being discussed, they are returning to business as usual.

Brian requested that I have anyone interested in attending the meeting to send an email and let him or the board know they plan to attend. The number of people emailing will help them gauge whether or not they will need to move the location of the meeting. I understand that you already have their email address, but in case you don't: [gm@duranonaturalfoods.coop](mailto:gm@duranonaturalfoods.coop), and [board@durangonaturalfoods.coop](mailto:board@durangonaturalfoods.coop)

Root, I greatly appreciate your enthusiasm and tenacity surrounding the Co-op. Your involvement is wonderful and I often wish we had more members as enthusiastic as yourself. However, I would like to politely request that you do not include my correspondence in your emails to others, especially the Herald or the Telegraph. I noticed that you Cc'd them on your last email reply to me. I am all for healthy debate, discussion, and arguments, but when it turns into the sort of slander, misinformation, and just plain meanness that this whole ordeal has turned into, I do not want to be involved. I am excited and hopeful for open discussion and reasonable dialogue, but until then, I'd prefer not to be involved. Thank you for understanding.

Warmly,

Brett Massé

Design Lead

Durango Natural Foods Co-op

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Date: 9/17/2014 5:49 PM [Wednesday, before upcoming Monday the 22<sup>nd</sup> Board meeting, where we will formally deliver the petition signatures and see what happens.]

From: Root

To: DNF Outreach Coordinator [Brett]

Cc: Pat, DNF Board, DNF GM Brian

Subject: RE: Board Meeting Venue - Sept 22nd

Thanks Brett. I will be conscious about your requests in the future in terms of who's on my reply cc's on the outside (here I'm cc-ing the Board and Pat).

By the way, we are not doing an RSVP, so no one will be sending Brian any emails about their agenda, etc, for him to 'approve or disapprove'; other than he'll be on the blast we send out. We will be calling in as big a turnout as we can; as all Board meetings are open to the members. The issue of course is the petition and the Board's response to it.

We've given the Board a "heads up" about the potential for a very large turnout; so it won't really look good for them to not accommodate the members. I just heard from Missy Votel at the Telegraph that they have already gone to press with the Rocky Mountain Retreat venue in their notice (we didn't send them a notice; they are just picking up on announcing the previously planned meeting). And here's what's still on the DNF webpage Blog showing the two meetings and RMR as the venue, engendering even more confusion when you change venues mid-stream with little or no notice.

## The News

Published August 14, 2014 | By DNF

As I'm sure many of you know by now, our Board of Directors has put into works a plan to merge our co-op with La Montañita Co-op. This has already shown to be both a pleasant surprise as well as a less-pleasant surprise to many.

It is absolutely paramount to us at the Co-op that the member/owners be involved in the Co-op's happenings and direction. We're here because of you! As such, we are fully encouraging any and all concerned or curious members to participate with the next few Board meetings. I would personally love to see you all there:

**Monday, August 18th at 5:30pm**

**Monday, September 22nd at 5:30pm**

Both of these meetings will be held at the Rocky Mountain Retreat Center, 848 East 3rd Avenue and the topic at hand will be in regards to the merger.

As members of the Co-op, you *do* have a say in what will transpire. There's too many unanswered questions at this point and I think we'd all like to know all the facts.

**Please spread the word. It's your Co-op!**

There's still time for Victoria to put in that request to Pat on behalf of the Board; which I would think would be a nice jester of courtesy to the members. I will be sending out a blast tomorrow, so the Board is cc'd here and will be tomorrow—don't you want to make that simple decision, which would be better press than having dozens and dozens of members standing outside in the rain wanting to be at the Board meeting (Victoria, please make a decision on this quickly; if I don't hear from you I'll have some more unflattering comments to say about the Board's unresponsiveness to respectful requests from the members).

Root

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Date: 9/17/2014 9:18 PM [Wednesday, before upcoming Monday the 22<sup>nd</sup> Board meeting, where we will formally deliver the petition signatures and see what happens.]

From: DNF Board [Victoria, Secretary]  
To: Root, DNF Outreach Coordinator [Brett]  
Cc: Pat, DNF GM Brian, Board  
Subject: RE: Board Meeting Venue - Sept 22nd

Dear Root,

The Board has returned to its usual business and the upcoming meeting will be a normal Board meeting with its customary agenda. Owners are welcome to attend Board meetings as observers while we conduct our business and pose questions when recognized by the chair. There is an agenda item under "New Business" for owners to bring up new business to be discussed, as time allows. The agenda is posted on our bulletin board at the store.

A new location for this meeting is being worked on currently and we will have a communication on that shortly. The Rocky Mountain Retreat was never authorized by the Board for this upcoming meeting.

Root, our response to your petition is very simple - we are following our Bylaws and scheduling a special meeting with an agenda for any proper issues. The Member Communication Committee is working on an owner discussion session to talk about the mission and vision statements as well as other policies later this fall. We are not resigning our positions.

Root, please communicate directly with the Board regarding Board business. We would also like to request that you refrain from including non-members in our DNF conversations.

Thank you.

Victoria Robinson  
Secretary DNF Board of Directors

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Date: 9/18/2014 7:25 AM [Thursday, before upcoming Monday the 22<sup>nd</sup> Board meeting, where we will formally deliver the petition signatures and see what happens.]

From: Root  
To: Kim, Guthrie  
Subject: FW: Board Meeting Venue - Sept 22nd

Here is a response from Victoria, which makes explicit where this Board sits regarding member input.  
Root

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Date: 9/18/2014 5:02 PM [Thursday, before upcoming Monday the 22<sup>nd</sup> Board meeting, where we will formally deliver the petition signatures and see what happens.]

From: DNF Board Secretary, Victoria Robinson  
To: DNF Board  
Cc: Root  
Subject: DNF BoD meeting place Sept 22

Hi all,

We will be meeting in the Sunlight room at the Rec Center for our next Board meeting.

Cheers, Victoria

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Date: 9/18/2014 7:13 PM [Thursday, before upcoming Monday the 22<sup>nd</sup> Board meeting, where we will formally deliver the petition signatures and see what happens.]

From: DNF-Announce

To: DNF Members

Subject: Co-op Newsletter with ads and notice on the next Board of Directors meeting.

[This last notice before the meeting does not have location update]

## Board of Directors Meeting

The next Board of Directors meeting will be held this coming Monday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> in the DNF offices across the parking lot from the Co-op. The meeting will start at 5:30pm. All member/owners are invited and welcome to attend. If you're not a member/owner yet, sign up!

The Board agenda for last month's meeting was tabled in its entirety to allow for discussion of the merger recommendation which has been off the table for a month now. The Board has returned to its business since then and the upcoming meeting will be a normal Board meeting with its customary agenda. Owners are welcome to attend the meeting as observers while we conduct our business and pose questions when recognized by the chair. There is an agenda item under New Business for owners to bring up new business to be discussed, as time allows.

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Date: 9/19/2014 3:46 PM [Friday, before upcoming Monday the 22<sup>nd</sup> Board meeting, where we will formally deliver the petition signatures and see what happens.]

From: DNF-Announce

To: DNF Members

Subject: Addendum regarding Board of Directors meeting.

An addendum to yesterday's newsletter regarding location of the Board of Directors meeting.

This coming Board of Directors meeting on Monday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> at 5:30pm will be held in the Sunlight Room at the Durango Rec Center.

The rec center is located at 2700 Main Ave. Thank you for your patience and understanding!