* Eating and mingling (4-4:30pm)
* Welcome + Group introductions (4:30-4:40pm)
* Reports (4:40-5:05pm - 5 minutes each)
  + President – Rachel
    - Shared annual report overview. See annual report for details.
  + Store – Paula/Shelly
    - Challenging year - dip in sales.
    - Trying to keep cost of goods down by better managing the inventory.
    - Please use suggestion box--it is checked once a week.
  + Café – Gina
    - Made a very small profit.
    - Currently looking for a co-manager and additional staff.
  + Volunteer Coordinator – Ousia
    - Change this past year--café manager helps with scheduling the volunteers in the café, while the volunteer coordinator does so for the store. Volunteer coordinator is in charge of recruitment and orientation.
    - Read aloud “We are the Co-op” portion of annual report--see this for additional details.
  + Finance – Vince
    - Looked at the numbers on pages 7-10 of the annual report.
    - Net loss for the year of 2017: -$6,579.00
    - We have seen a steady rise in net income up to 2016 and are now noticing a slight decline.
    - Budget on pages 9 and 10 of annual report. Took numbers from 2017 and adjusted based on trends.
  + Communications – Lauren
    - First annual membership survey with over 100 participants to check in with the membership on how we’re doing and what they’d like to see.
      * Values are a strong connection.
      * 13 people indicated that they were interested in volunteering
      * Ideas for improvement: variety in inventory in produce, usually shop elsewhere due to selection and price
    - Looking at enhance communication
      * Special sales alerts
      * Improve social media presence -- need more volunteers to help out here
      * Q: How to best keep in touch? A: Email
      * Website will be updated soon
      * Looking to get more involved in community events
      * Suggestion: Get involved in the media
  + Membership – Karen
    - Please make sure we have your correct email, especially if you don’t receive the newsletter. Also check “Promotions” tab in gmail since it might be being filtered out.
    - Cleaned up a lot of computer issues to better track membership statuses
    - 868 lifetime members!
    - 2017: 550 members joined
    - About 1500 active members
    - Request - People would like to know how many members shop in the store
  + Overview of committees and encouraged sign-up:
    - Note that the Sustainability committee, sub-committee of the Communications committee is going to be formed to try and reduce carbon footprint. Current projects: signage, reduce use of plastics, compostable materials end up in the right place, Boomerang bags. First event at Public House on May 15 from 7-9: Bag It movie about plastic use.
    - If you missed the chance to sign up for a committee but would like to, please contact [ousia@riverwestcoop.org](mailto:ousia@riverwestcoop.org)
* Break (5:05-5:20pm)
* Board Candidate introductions + Q & A (5:20-5:45pm)
  + Candidates: Veronica O’Donnell, Alyssa Russo, Shellbelle Schauer, Debbie Powers, Amanda Daniels, Karen Reynolds, Vince Bushell
  + 7 open seats and 7 candidates
  + Each candidate introduced themselves and gave a brief reason why they are interested in being on the board.
  + Q & A session
    - Question: What are ways you would like to see the Board more involved in the co-op and/or community?
      * All answered combined here for record-keeping purposes: Events (local festivals), possibly events committee, put out more pamphlets about the co-op and encourage speaking to patrons more about what we are, more visible to the membership (e.g. pictures in the co-op), attend workers’ collective meetings, more diversity outreach, host a game night, host group discussions beyond just the GMM to increase communal discussions, provide more information on the projects being done by the committees to the membership, have board members introduce themselves to the volunteers and workers’ collective.
* Discussion on proposed changes to bylaws and lifetime membership total (5:45-6pm)
  + Grocery and Café addition to the official name (“Riverwest Cooperative Grocery and Café”)
  + Change the number of required members from 9 to a range of 5-9 members.
    - Only one year had a contested election. Otherwise, always was either at or below the requirement of 9 board members.
    - If below 9, then the board is forced to try and get interim board members to fill seats.
    - Point: Not all members were aware of changes to be made. Would like more visibility.
    - Point: Equity is an important indication of a business’ health. This is a good move to keep up with cost of living and inflation increases.
    - Point: Important to recruit new faces each year. Perhaps include in bylaws language - to get at least one new member who has never served on the board before.
    - Point: Has not always been difficult to fill the board. Could be more of a recent issue of people leaving early and not doing enough recruitment. Would like to see new faces for fresh perspective and experience.
    - Point: It is better to have committed people with a vision and a purpose than seek to fill seats.
    - Point: We have changed it in all of our writings, but not necessary to include in our bylaws. Would prefer to keep this flexible.
    - Idea: Pay it forward with equity to sponsor memberships.
    - Suggestion: Change language to require 9 total but make filling the vacancy more carefully
    - Suggestion: Could change language to include ability for members to be appointed for more than just until the GMM or hold the next board meeting later to allow more flexibility. Could change to 7 to lessen range.
    - Suggestion: Recruitment committee to get more board members
    - Point: It has been more difficult to recruit volunteers in general lately so it will be difficult to
    - Point: Burnout at this co-op could happen if recruitment doesn’t bring in fresh faces.
    - Suggestion: Set term limits (2 terms and then take a break)
    - Suggestion: Cooperation among cooperatives. Important to set reachable goals and keep doing well what you do well. Gives other cooperatives an opportunity to find and define themselves.
    - Suggestion: Might open another location and reduces our ability to be flexible in what we become.
    - Question: is there anyway we can change the language on the ballot? Answer: No, not until next year.
    - Suggestion: Board hire managers, managers hire staff, staff service members, members elect board
  + Lifetime membership equity increase from $100 to $120
* Break-out discussion sessions (6:00pm-6:45pm. See breakdown below)
  + 1st question (5 minutes): Besides a place to buy good food, what else are we to our community? How can we better emphasize the parts of our organization that make us more than a grocery store/restaurant, while maintaining the business?
    - Add gallery to name
    - Physical presence at more outside places
      * Farmers market
      * Make a budget line for outreach $5000
      * Field trip to farms
      * Go to vendors’ places and visit/volunteer
      * Vegan food meet-up
      * Feels safe, build on that
      * “More than a grocery store!”
      * Monthly block party
      * Emphasize radical economic structure
      * More yoga on-site
      * Promote the socialism/not for profit aspect/liberation
      * Promote gallery/art
      * Volunteers/members - demonstration or exhibits that carry a message about what and why we believe in co-op principles, organizing and food.
      * How people come together and what makes our co-op different than "just a food store or cafe."
      * Anyone interested in doing something for Locust Fest
      * Promote recipes
      * Advertise that the co-op is a great connection
  + 2nd question (5 minutes): If you could make physical or structural changes to our co-op, or expand it elsewhere, would you? If so, what would you like to see?
    - Many people voiced that they would not like to see the grocery store and café separate--feel that it offers convenience to the shoppers and that there’s a symbiotic nature of utilizing the produce
    - Expansion would allow for more café seats & less waste with to-go orders. More communal feel when we eat together. More space to shop.’
    - Afraid of going big/commercial. People like the cozy feel.
    - Stay in the neighborhood.
    - Possibly use capital to help start another co-op. Recommendation to offer financial support and structural advice, but allow autonomy so the new place can create its own culture.
    - If we expand, try not to lose what we have
    - Do market research and logistics planning before expansion
    - Move café kitchen to upstairs to expand offerings (bakery, grab’n’go items, catering, etc.)
    - Have meeting with founders and current leaders -- create an advisory board
    - Check in with staff about expansion and bear in mind staff realities as of late
    - Note that small space in café now might be the cause for stress for café staff
    - Decrease grocery inventory to open up space, though some said not to do this since people tend to shop elsewhere due to high prices and lack of inventory variety
    - Consider more grab’n’go items and delivering groceries
* Election results & recap (6:45 -7pm)
  + All seven candidates.
  + Two proposed changes passed by a majority vote.
    - Change co-op name to include “Grocery and Café”
      * For: 21
      * Against: 20
    - Increase lifetime membership fee from $100 to $120
      * For: 40
      * Against: 1
  + One proposed change did not pass by majority vote.
    - Change number of board members to a range of 5-9
      * For: 20
      * Against: 21
    - Note: The vote was originally counted at the GMM as 21 “for” and 20 “against” for the change to the number of board members. On 5/27/18, members of the WC and Board of Directors held a recount where it was discovered that a voter had changed their mind and had chosen “against” instead of “for”. The other two proposed changes were recounted, as well, with no changes to the breakdown of the votes.

Ideas for improvement (from the suggestions poster):

* Explain facilitation style utilized by the co-op at the start of GMM
* Increase amount of time to fill board vacancies
* Discuss bylaw 2.6
* Add term limits
* Put a note on board members in CoPos so volunteers know (Outpost does that)
* Do continue happy hours at Public House for board & staff to meet folks
* Article 5.6 is still a problem, please consider keeping 9 members and changing to a better replacement process