Strategic Vision meeting notes
5.13.2020
Present: Rob (Chair), Isabel, Mark, David, Melinda (GM), Julie Massa (Columinate), Chloe (Board Admin)

The committee presented two topics for the discussion:

1) Participating Owner program
2) Follow up and continuing conversations with Pullman Good Food Co-op leadership

<u>Follow up and continuing conversations with Pullman Good Food Co-op leadership</u>
The committee discussed news/updates on where the Pullman Good Food Co-op was standing in terms of meeting their goals of recruiting owners and acquiring property.

The committee discussed ways to continue collaboration with the Pullman Good Food Co-op's leadership team.

The committee then discussed the broad topic of expansion and what that could look like in the future.

<u>Next steps:</u>

- David will meet with Sue of the Pullman Good Food Co-op and will update the committee on the conversation.

<u>Participating Owner Program</u>
Melinda reviewed what the Participating Owner Program is for Board members and Julie. The Participating Owner Program is a volunteer program, through which volunteer owners provide services like teach classes, take care of grounds, compost management, etc. All co-ops that started in the 1970's started with volunteer labor but that became a problem when the government made such volunteerism unlawful "free labor" as it provides an unfair advantage to other grocers in the same market.

The committee discussed the logistics of creating a verified volunteer/participating owner program. The committee agreed it is a positive program that is unique to co-ops, and that is a great benefit in marketing and community-building. The committee discussed other (more decentralized) ways/methods of volunteerism, including offering off-site classes or working at the Farmers Market.

Next steps:

1. Julie Massa will ask Thane about the legalities of volunteer roles at the store, and/or more background information.
2. Julie Massa will touch base with a board member at Willy Street Co-op.

Melinda asked the committee for ideas on other ways, opportunities and roles for participating owners. She recommended the team that volunteers for Community News could begin work on projects for the 50th anniversary in 2 years.