

Bylaws of the Turtle Lake Farmers' Market Association

I) Name of the market and parent organization

- A) The name of the market is Turtle Lake Farmers' Market
- B) The parent organization for the market is the Turtle Lake Farmers' Markets Association

II) Purpose of the farmers' market

- A) To provide Turtle Lake area farmers with alternative marketing opportunities through a retail marketplace, as well as to encourage agriculture entrepreneurship in the region.
- B) To provide consumers with fresh, locally grown or locally produced products in a convenient location.

III) Purpose of farmers' market association

- A) To ensure orderly operation of the market while striking a fair balance between the needs of all participants, including vendors and consumers.
- B) Provide a legal basis to operate as an official, non-profit entity.

IV) Membership

- A) Membership is open to those actively engaged in the production of accepted products, whether on a full or part time basis. Each farm or grower shall be entitled to one (1) membership. Membership shall be granted when the annual member/vendor dues are paid for that year. Annual membership dues shall be determined by the Board of Directors prior to the annual meeting.
- B) Membership entitles the holder to be eligible for a position on the Board of Directors, as well as the ability to cast votes.
- C) A member who willfully violates these bylaws or the market rules can be removed from membership by vote of the simple majority of the Board of Directors at a duly scheduled meeting.
- D) Annual Membership Meeting
 - i) An annual membership meeting shall be held not later than the end of March of any year
 - ii) Thirty (30) days advance public notice of the annual membership meeting shall be made to all Turtle Lake Farmers' Market Association members.

V) Board of Directors

- A) The Board of Directors will consist of not less than five (5) and not more than seven (7) members. Members of the Board must be members of the Turtle Lake Farmers' Market Association, except that one member may be the County Extension Agent and two members may be named by the Trustees of the Village of Turtle Lake as long as the market is held on Village property. The Board of Directors will be elected by simple majority of members present at the annual membership meeting and each member will serve a one (1) year term.
- B) Officers of the Board of Directors include
 - i) President: Schedules and chairs the meetings, serves as a contact for outside groups, appoints committees as or when required and conducts votes.
 - ii) Vice President: Serves in the President's absence.

- iii) Secretary: Maintains correspondence, up-to-date bylaws, lists of members, applications, and minutes of meetings.
 - iv) Treasurer: Collects fees, pays bills, keeps financial record, ensures tax reports are filed, and makes an annual financial report of the farmers' market organization.
 - v) Positions may be combined.
 - vi) Non Association members of the Board (those appointed by Village Trustee Board and the County Extension agent) may not serve as officers except as Secretary.
 - vii) In the first Board meeting after any election, Board members shall elect officers for the coming year.
- C) Duties of the Board of Directors include, but are not limited to, decisions regarding the overall management and operation of a successful market.
- D) Meetings
- i) Meetings will be held as necessary. A meeting shall be deemed to be a valid meeting when all current Board members are present or when the meeting is announced by the Secretary at least two (2) weeks in advance of the meeting.

VI) Voting issues

- A) Each member of the Association may vote in the annual election of Board members.
 - B) The current Board shall decide the number of directors to be elected. A nominating committee, appointed by the outgoing president, will recommend a slate of Board members. Voting for the Board of Directors shall take place at the annual membership meeting. Each member in attendance shall vote for one person for each vacant position. Members receiving the most votes shall be elected, notwithstanding that one or more newly elected Directors might not receive a majority of votes cast.
- C) Quorum
- i) The members present at a duly scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors constitute a quorum
 - ii) Members present at a duly scheduled membership meeting constitute a quorum.
- D) Changes to the bylaws shall be decided on the basis of sixty-six (66) percent or greater of the votes of members present at the annual meeting.

VII) New members

- A) New members must fill out an application, agree to abide by market rules, and pay the association dues.

VIII) Termination

- A) The Turtle Lake Farmers' Market will be intact as long as three (3) producer members remain active and in good standing.
- B) Should the Association be disbanded, the treasury is to be maintained for the period of time required to meet all outstanding bills, taxes, and obligations. Any remaining funds shall be donated to the Turtle Lake County Master Gardeners organization or another charitable community organization decided upon by a majority vote of the remaining Directors. All tax and reporting requirements must be satisfied prior to such a termination and donation.