

Tom Grant

Board Questionnaire Responses

- 1. Why would you like to serve on the Citizens Coop Board of Directors and what do you hope to accomplish?**

I want to serve on the Coop's Board of Directors to be able to directly submit my council and know how to this most worthy endeavor, a community grocery of only quality foods and products. At the most basic, I seek to accomplish aiding the Citizen's Co-op grow through this ripe and formative beginning period in its public operation. The Coop's survival is not guaranteed, nor is success and the establishment being a thriving enterprise, though these are my end goals. I seek to help navigate and ensure the serious business demands, practice and function our Community Co-op needs.

- 2. As a member of the BOD there will be times when you disagree with decisions made by the majority of the board. How might these disagreements affect your duties as a board member?**

Simply put, I will speak out for what I sense is best and leave the Coop's action to what the collective decision of the council is. I support the collective and majority approach and would never be at odds with the Board's function because I held a minority viewpoint. Any disagreement with the majority I may have would be quarantined to the time(s) said subject was open for discussion, and only then.

- 3. Board experience: Have you served on a board of directors before? If so, please describe the organization and your role.**

I have served, and continue to serve, as the sole Director at the business I own. We have a managing group comprised of the lead staff individual in each prominent division of our organization and we council often to handle both current and future matters and objectives. Though not officially a board, I have and do currently serve on a type of council at our business. We discuss and debate respectfully the numerous angles to important affairs and I often follow the directives of our staff, and to our success.

- 4. As a board member, how would you guide the Co-op in fulfilling the values reflected in its mission statement?**

As a board member, I would use my voice and vote to communicate how I felt a directive actually did represent the Co-op's stated mission, or it did not. And I will continually advocate only for measures, whether larger or small, that continue to uphold and strengthen the objective aim of the Citizen's Co-op.

- 5. What do you feel are Citizens Coop's primary challenges and biggest opportunities, and how could you help the coop meet these challenges and maximize their opportunities?**

I feel the Co-op's primary challenges include lowering their food prices and being as competitive as possible with the more popular food markets. This challenge is an opportunity too. Healthy and local food is its own reward, and the more affordable these products are, the more used they will be. And become. Costs and prices have a way of

typically going up and actually being able to trend the other direction is both a major challenge and opportunity of promise for this Citizen's Cooperative. My eleven+ years running a manufacturing business and our sensitive needs to both product cost and ultimate end retail prices uniquely positions me to help balance the Co-op's business cost side and customer's price end. I ultimately would be looking to help the Co-op thrive through lower and sustainable pricing, unlocking the power of more volume in sales for the Co-op itself. A true win win.

6. In your opinion, what is the role of the Co-op in the community?

In my opinion, the role of the Citizen's Co-op is to fulfill its members interests. And the interest of the membership certainly seems to be seeking the highest quality, mostly local, neat and fun and interesting and delightful product selection possible, all while letting the organization itself be a quality and ethically appropriate institution that also delivers them, the customer, a most lean price. Providing the community with all this in a grocery is what I feel is the Co-op's role in our community.

7. Discuss what role you see yourself in fulfilling on the Board of Directors. How will you uphold the values of the co-op? Please focus on professional experience and qualifications that will benefit the direction of Citizen's Co-op.

I have asked for admittance to one of the two At-Large Seats on the Board of Directors and in this role I see myself fulfilling dutiful attendance to the strong objective needs and requirements the Co-op will have in achieving its numerous business goals. I will uphold the values of the Co-op by letting the true concept of community and cooperation guide each idea, effort and endeavor I promote. My eleven+ years experience in running a business, the growth and successes and mistakes, the experiences of working alongside our employees, currently around twenty five+, and the service to the numerous long standing strong relationships with our retailers and suppliers aids my sense for how to help the Co-op both find its legs and then, be all it can be.

8. What is/are your passion (s) and as a member of the BOD how will you channel that passion to benefit the members of the coop and our local community?

I love, absolutely love any enterprise that is busy busy busy and well organized and doing awesome. I am impressed and do not take for granted all the small interworkings and almost microscopic successes that make the larger organism thrive. All this is neat to me, all the economics of an enterprise, especially successful ones. And at the same time I deeply feel strong local economies are needed for our local and larger society's better and best interest. And newer and different economic models for enterprise's to run through not only fascinate my interests, I am deeply rooted to a sense they are potentially better civic economic systems than our current classic capitalistic economic models and government run bureaucracies. I want to ensure, however, these alternative approaches to organization, such as a Co-op, can be deeply productive and fiscally lean enterprises. I have never worked for one. I want to.

9. Can you imagine any conflicts of interest that you might have regarding decision that the Board may have to make on behalf of coop owners? If so, describe.

I honestly can not find any conflict of interest I would or could have with the Board, as a co-op owner, so long as the Board is sincerely seeking to fulfill and uphold the values expressed and stated in their Co-op's Mission Statement.