

**Candidate Name:** Stephanie Eby  
**Owner Number:** # 3  
**Hometown:** Lombard



**Do you feel you may have any potential conflict of interest with Prairie Food Co-op?**

No

**Will you be able to attend Board Meetings that occur on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month?**

Yes

**Why are you interested in serving on the Prairie Food Board of Directors?**

I have been involved with Prairie Food Co-op for 4.5 years, serving on the first elected Board of Directors for a 3 year term, and am committed to seeing this project through to opening day. The knowledge and experience I have gained since my involvement with the project has been priceless and highly rewarding, and I look forward to continuing my service to our community in this way, bringing our first community owned grocery store to Lombard.

**Please tell us about your Past or Present Employment**

I worked as a Registered Nurse for 8 years (1996 - 2003) before having children and making the choice to stay at home. During my years at home, I attended births as a doula and offered childbirth education to my clients. For the past 2 years I have been working as Office Manager at Montessori Academy of Glen Ellyn, managing all business and financial aspects of the school as well as assisting with daily organization, marketing, and student retention initiatives.

**Volunteer: Membership/Affiliations past and present**

My most notable volunteer affiliation has been with Prairie Food Co-op, committing the past (almost) 5 years to research, planning, community education, owner recruitment, outreach, financial management, and much more.

**Volunteer: Leadership positions held past and present**

Prairie Food Co-op Board Treasurer for 2 years; Ownership & Outreach Co-Chair for 1 year; current Board Vice-President and Capital Campaign Co-Chair.

**Volunteer: Honors/Awards Received**

NA

**Which of the following areas do you have expertise?**

Management, Marketing/Public Relations, Event Planning, Finance

**Please provide details on any marked expertise below**

With my past and present involvement with Prairie Food Co-op, serving on the Board of Directors and Ownership & Outreach Team, I have extensive experience with event planning and public relations. My past position as PFC Board Treasurer and current employment as Office Manager have developed my knowledge of financial management and accountability. I am currently working to organize PFCs capital campaign and will soon have ample experience with fundraising, as well.

**What experience, education, and skills do you have that you feel will contribute to your effectiveness as a Prairie Food Director?**

My history with PFC is the most useful experience I can offer the Board. Skills I will continue to bring to the table are - the ability to think critically when making big and small decisions, enthusiasm when out in the community speaking for the co-op, and an overall ability to remain organized and focused to follow through with my responsibilities.

**What are your personal goals for Prairie Food Co-op?**

My ultimate goal is to see Prairie Food Co-op open its doors and remain a successful business, serving the community for years to come.

**What experiences have you had with food co-ops in the past?**

Before the inception of Prairie Food Co-op, I had no experience or affiliation with other food co-ops.

**What do you hope to achieve from your board experience?**

When Prairie Food Co-op opens its doors, I look forward to knowing that I helped bring something amazing to our community!

**Candidate Name:** Frank Marousek  
**Owner Number:** #  
**Hometown:** Lombard



**Do you feel you may have any potential conflict of interest with Prairie Food Co-op?**

No

**Will you be able to attend Board Meetings that occur on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month?**

Yes

**Why are you interested in serving on the Prairie Food Board of Directors?**

As a retired business owner, I may be able to contribute to the bus.

**Please tell us about your Past or Present Employment**

Started, in 1963, and still own a machining business.

**Volunteer: Membership/Affiliations past and present**

Boy Scouts

**Volunteer: Leadership positions held past and present**

**Volunteer: Honors/Awards Received**

**Which of the following areas do you have expertise?**

Management, Finance

**Please provide details on any marked expertise below**

For over 50 years I have managed a machining business and also a shop tool supply business which included sales, personnel, purchasing, keeping books and raising financing.

**What experience, education, and skills do you have that you feel will contribute to your effectiveness as a Prairie Food Director?**

I do have a B.S.M.E which doesn't have direct application. My small business experience should be helpful.

**What are your personal goals for Prairie Food Co-op?**

To see the store be a success and to provide myself a nearby source for nutritious sustainable groceries and maybe even return a couple shekels.

**What experiences have you had with food co-ops in the past?**

None

**What do you hope to achieve from your board experience?**

The satisfaction of seeing the store succeed.

**Candidate Name:** Angela Mullins  
**Owner Number:** # 478  
**Hometown:** Lombard



**Do you feel you may have any potential conflict of interest with Prairie Food Co-op?**

No

**Will you be able to attend Board Meetings that occur on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month?**

Yes

**Why are you interested in serving on the Prairie Food Board of Directors?**

One of the many reasons I moved to Lombard was to find a place where my growing family and I could really settle in, build relationships and become part of the community. As a stay-at-home-mom now, I've known for a long time that I'm not really interested in getting back into the daily grind of a 9-to-5 corporate position, with everything that entails both good and bad. I find that my purpose to put my energy and experience behind things I care deeply about, things that can benefit everyone instead of just a corporation's bottom line. I think the Prairie Food Co-op is something that will benefit and enrich the Village of Lombard and the surrounding areas for years to come.

**Please tell us about your Past or Present Employment**

From 1999-2010, I've worked for - The Chicago Cubs, The Chicago Tribune, AOL, Orbitz and Expedia. All of these positions included work in sales, marketing, public relations and events. I've dealt with celebrities, A-listers, journalists, politicians, and individuals from CEOs to janitors. Everyone was important, and everyone left a lasting impression.

**Volunteer: Membership/Affiliations past and present**

I was a volunteer in the Celebrity Hospitality Suite for the Chicago International Film Festival October 2004. I also volunteered for multiple event set ups and teardowns during the time I worked at the Chicago Tribune. Metromix, still a Tribune entity at the time, held several after hours and weekend events that needed staffing. I helped where I could. Most recently, I volunteered for the Vote Yes for Helen Plum Library Committee.

**Volunteer: Leadership positions held past and present**

I was the Communications Co-Chair for the Vote Yes for Helen Plum Library Committee.

**Volunteer: Honors/Awards Received**

Nothing for volunteering!

**Other:** In 2002, I was the sole Chicago Tribune Interactive/online representative of the Director's Award-winning Chicago Tribune Message Management Team. The purpose of the team was to integrate the print edition with the online editions of the Tribune. The online editions at the time included chicagotribune.com, metromix.com, chicagosports.com. The integration included managing "house ads" to promote online products in the newspaper, newspaper products online, and online products from site-to-site including ads in daily Metromix, ChicagoSports and Tribune Daywatch email newsletters.

**Which of the following areas do you have expertise?**

Management, Fundraising, Marketing/Public Relations, Event Planning

**Please provide details on any marked expertise below**

All of my jobs (even that part-time record store job in high school) have given me a ton of experience in marketing, events, management and dealing with the public and how to reach out to them. The job that used all of that experience most measurably was Marketing Manager for the Orbitz Affiliate program, including recruitment, promotions, email communication (including simple HTML,) online research, manning conference booths, writing ad copy, financially managing and growing the multi-million dollar program and more. Specific numbers/percentage of year over year growth available if needed.

**What experience, education, and skills do you have that you feel will contribute to your effectiveness as a Prairie Food Director?**

I think this is where I can mention my role as the Communications Co-chair for the Vote Yes for Helen Plum Library Committee in more detail. This committee was my first experience working with a political campaign, so I went into it not quite knowing how much I would be putting myself out in the community, but I don't think anyone could deny that I was out there: whether it was on Facebook defending the referendum, meeting and talking to leaders of Lombard that had no idea who I was as a relatively new resident with no prior family connections in town, raising money and securing item donations for fundraising efforts from local and national businesses, down to delivering yard signs and handing out stickers and flyers at local events. A couple of times when our Chair was out of town, I would set the meeting agendas and provide (sometimes overly) detailed notes about the meeting's discussions. I would love to continue that community outreach with another unifying message for how the Village can move toward the future.

**What are your personal goals for Prairie Food Co-op?**

Meet ownership goals to get the lease and then the building underway!

**What experiences have you had with food co-ops in the past?**

Just this fall, my family was staying in a small town near Madison, Wisconsin and we needed some food for the week. Instead of going to the large grocery chain, we went to the food co-op. I loved the open and welcoming environment, not to mention knowing the items I was purchasing for my family were healthy and local to the Dane County area, where we were staying. Additionally, they viewed my ownership stake in the Prairie Food Co-op as reciprocal, and didn't charge me the non-owner fee for our items! The first time I ever went to a food Co-op was in college, since it was across the street from my dorm. As a poor college student, I was never an owner, but their chocolate-covered coffee beans definitely helped my friends and me through several all-night study sessions. I remember it fondly.

**What do you hope to achieve from your board experience?**

As you get older, I feel you realize you are never done learning, never done trying to be better. As a mom, I know I can always do better and give more healthy and local options to my whole family and not just my kids. It can be overwhelming sometimes to try and do everything right for yourself, your kids, your planet and your community. I'd love to be part of the board and have a front row seat to learn more myself about local and organic food options, reducing my family's footprint and doing things as sustainably as possible; I know how important those things are for all of us to learn as well. I'd like to reach out to other members of our community that may feel overwhelmed with things they feel they "should" be doing, but aren't sure where to start right now. I hope to help bring the overall welcoming message to the community.

Helping when you can - either one small choice made weekly on garbage or grocery day or several large choices made on a daily basis, you can make a difference.

**Candidate Name:** Katherine Carlson Nash  
**Owner Number:** # 3  
**Hometown:** Lombard



**Do you feel you may have any potential conflict of interest with Prairie Food Co-op?**

No

**Will you be able to attend Board Meetings that occur on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month?**

Yes

**Why are you interested in serving on the Prairie Food Board of Directors?**

As co-founder and current president, I have substantial knowledge of what it takes to get to opening day. I have many close connections throughout the co-op industry that continue to provide expert guidance and advice to our Board. I welcome the opportunity to serve another term and cannot wait to celebrate with all our Owners when Prairie Food Co-op opens.

**Please tell us about your Past or Present Employment**

University of Illinois, Senior Systems Engineer, since 2002

**Volunteer: Membership/Affiliations past and present**

I have spent the past 4 years volunteering my time for Prairie Food Co-op. I have worked on all areas of co-op development ranging from store design to financial feasibility to business planning. Prior to the co-op, I volunteered for a non-profit organization in Champaign, IL that worked for the passage of Illinois House Bill 211 - Contraceptive Equity in Health Insurance. I am proud to say the bill passed. I have also volunteered for Chicago Cares and other organizations doing great work to better their community.

**Volunteer: Leadership positions held past and present**

I have served as President of Prairie Food Co-op for the past 2 years. During that time, the co-op received a prestigious \$10K Food Co-op Initiative grant and also the "2017 Cooperative Citizen" award for going far above in sharing our expertise with other co-ops. I serve as a peer mentor for other start-up co-ops needing board development and leadership guidance. In high school, I founded the Orchesis (dance) team and was co-captain for 3 years. Although this was many (many) years ago, I am proud that the Orchesis team still exists and is a huge success.

**Volunteer: Honors/Awards Received**

"2017 Cooperative Citizen" awarded to all directors of the PFC board

**Which of the following areas do you have expertise?**

Project management, Software Development

**Please provide details on any marked expertise below**

I have been a software developer for over 20 years, primarily focused on web and mobile app development. I have also been a project manager overseeing large software development efforts.

**What experience, education, and skills do you have that you feel will contribute to your effectiveness as a Prairie Food Director?**

I have a combination of technical and management experience that lends itself to helping in various aspects of Prairie Food Co-op's development. I have used my technical skills to build and maintain the PFC website, create and maintain record keeping systems, and establish various collaboration and project management tools for the co-op. As current president, my main focus is on project management – ensuring that our Board understands the project time-frame and that we are following best practices to develop the co-op. Over the past 4 years, I have attended many workshops to increase my knowledge of what is required to open a successful co-op.

**What are your personal goals for Prairie Food Co-op?**

To see Prairie Food Co-op open and to shop at the store! As important as opening day is, though, it's essential that the Board make patient and informed decisions even when "easier" decisions are available that might not lead to long-term success. I want to see our community become more engaged with the co-op so that we gain enough Owners to sign a lease in 2017. I'm excited to be involved in a project that will have such a positive impact on our community

**What experiences have you had with food co-ops in the past?**

I was an Owner and volunteer at Common Ground Food Co-op in Urbana, IL for several years prior to moving to Lombard. Shopping at the co-op completely changed my view of how our food is produced and why it's so important to support local farmers who use sustainable growing practices. Seeing the positive impact that the co-op has had on the Urbana community is very inspiring.

**What do you hope to achieve from your board experience?**

A bright, beautiful, amazing store that offers year round access to local and sustainably produced food. Passion for local, sustainable food and justice within our food system is why I've volunteered many (many!) hours of my time over the past 4 years to help Prairie Food Co-op become a reality. I also think the co-op is a great demonstration of the power of what a community can do when it comes together for a common cause.



**Candidate Name:** Beth Peluse  
**Owner Number:** # 431  
**Hometown:** Lombard



**Do you feel you may have any potential conflict of interest with Prairie Food Co-op?**

No

**Will you be able to attend Board Meetings that occur on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month?**

Yes

**Why are you interested in serving on the Prairie Food Board of Directors?**

I am passionate about the well-being of our community and the environment. I see the Prairie Food Co-op as a vehicle for better and sustainable food as well as a community builder. I believe serving on the board of the PFC would allow me to be a part of that positive and progressive movement.

**Please tell us about your Past or Present Employment**

I am the Marketing Director for two boutique travel companies, Taste Vacations and Zephyr Adventures, as well as an adventure travel guide. Previously, I worked at several marketing agencies with experience in a variety of industries including beer, wine, and food tourism, hospitality, event planning and management, pharmaceutical, and financial industries.

**Volunteer: Membership/Affiliations past and present**

I am a current volunteer for the Morton Arboretum Heritage Trail Crew, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Overture Council, and the Helen Plum Library Foundation Board. In the recent past, I volunteered for the Yes, Helen! Library Referendum Committee and the Chicago Anti-Cruelty Society.

**Volunteer: Leadership positions held past and present**

I was the Campaign Coordinator for the Yes Helen! Library Referendum Committee

**Volunteer: Honors/Awards Received**

The Helen Plum Library referendum passed!

**Which of the following areas do you have expertise?**

Management, Marketing/Public Relations, Event Planning

**Please provide details on any marked expertise below**

Throughout my career, I have managed several teams of varying skill sets, ages, and personalities. I have over ten years of experience in Marketing and Event Planning. My experience includes: my current position as the Marketing Director for two boutique travel companies, my years at various non-digital and digital marketing agencies, and my time as a wedding and events coordinator.

**What experience, education, and skills do you have that you feel will contribute to your effectiveness as a Prairie Food Director?**

I am a passionate yet organized person that enjoys collaborating with others to achieve common goals. I believe my marketing, event planning, and management skills can assist the Prairie Food Co-op in reaching its ownership goal, open a physical location within our community, and beyond.

**What are your personal goals for Prairie Food Co-op?**

I would like to see the Prairie Food Co-op not only as a source for locally-grown, sustainable food but as a community center that offers a fun and educational environment

**What experiences have you had with food co-ops in the past?**

I have visited many incredible food co-ops during my travels and am excited to bring one into our own community.

**What do you hope to achieve from your board experience?**

I hope my involvement with the Prairie Food Co-op Board would help to achieve a functioning and successful co-op that continues to build a strong and healthy community. I am not looking to receive individual accolades by serving on the board but I personally believe in what co-ops stand for, want to shop at a local co-op, and care about my community thriving. My sincere hope is that by helping the co-op achieve its primary objective I'll directly accomplish those individual goals.