

2021 PFC Board Candidates

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**** Note: Applicants listed alphabetically**

Name: Jessica Buttimer

Owner #: 311



Will you be able to attend Board Meetings that occur on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month 7pm - 9pm?

Yes

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

I have been going to board meetings for the past 5 years. I served a two-year term as a board member and then stepped down to plan the capital campaign. I want to continue to have a voice and vote at the board table to see that we transition successfully from a working board to a governing board. My current role on a school board has prepared me well for this transition.

Employment: Please tell us about your Past or Present Employment

Currently a stay-at-home mom, I enjoyed eight years as a user experience research consultant with User Centric, Inc (now a part of Ipsos). As a Senior Research Director with User Centric, I sold, designed, and managed large global usability research and design engagements. For five years prior to that, I designed, developed, and implemented web-based customer relationship management (CRM) systems as a programmer for Nuveen Investments. Rounding out my portfolio of gainful employment, I have been a horrible waitress, an unimpressive administrative temp, a too-nice bill collector, a lost 'gopher' of insurance documents, a freezing-cold jar scraper for a cheese factory, an excellent sandwich artist, and a loving, though exhausted, babysitter.

Volunteer: Membership/Affiliations past and present:

In addition to volunteering for Prairie Food Co-op, I currently serve on the D41 School Board, Policy Committee, DEI Committee, D41 Kids Foundation Board, Partnership for Educational Progress Board, and PTA Council Parent Education Chair.

Which of the following areas do you have expertise?

Management, Fundraising, Marketing/Public Relations, Grants and Communications.

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

Years of client management experience has taught me how to work well with others, be open to multiple perspectives, and collaborate towards consensus. I have served for two years on a governing board for District 41 in addition to several working boards. In addition, reading non-fiction, learning, organizing, and concise communication are a few of my favorite things and will contribute to my effectiveness as a Prairie Food Director.

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

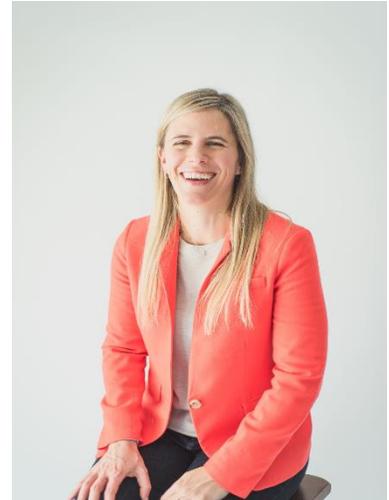
As a board member, I have no personal agenda for the Prairie Food Co-op. Rather, I am most interested in adhering to our mission of creating a marketplace for local, sustainable, organic, and transparently labeled food. I do want to make sure we are responsible stewards for the funds our community has invested in the co-op.

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

This is the first co-operative that I have been a part of. I have attended several cooperative conferences and co-presented about cooperative capital campaigns.

Name: Jacquelyn Casazza

Owner #: 886



Will you be able to attend Board Meetings that occur on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month 7pm - 9pm?

Yes - my understanding after the board orientation session on 3/25 was that meetings are currently only the 1st Tuesday. I serve on the Glen Ellyn Environmental Commission which meets the 3rd Tuesday. Therefore, if meetings ever changed back to the 1st AND 3rd Tuesday, I would have to discuss how to balance attendance at both meetings.

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

I have a personal passion for community connection and environmental awareness and education. I see the Prairie Food Coop as a natural intersection between these two areas, and the PFC as a place that will have positive benefits on our community, environment and local economy for years to come. I am excited about working with other passionate volunteers to make the PFC a reality.

Employment: Please tell us about your Past or Present Employment

I was previously a senior manager with Deloitte Tax for over 16 years within the Global Employer Services practice. I advised clients on the tax and human resource implications of global talent deployment as well as employee experience. I also led a number of internal initiatives focused on training, mentoring, and creating a motivating, fun, and inclusive work environment for my team through events like office scavenger hunts and decathlons. Currently I am a consultant with Beautycounter, a safer cosmetics and personal care products company. I share information about ingredient safety so individuals can make informed decisions when purchasing a product. Additionally, I advocate for stronger, more transparent regulation at the state and federal level that considers the health of consumers and the planet.

Volunteer: Membership/Affiliations past and present:

- 1) HFS Chicago Scholars; mentor and volunteer, 2005-2017, Young Professionals Board Member, 2014-2017
- 2) Abraham Lincoln Elementary School PTA; Auction Fundraiser co-chair, 2018 and 2019
- 3) La Escuela Cooperativa de Sayulita; current Board Member
- 4) Glen Ellyn Environmental Commission; current Commissioner
- 5) Glen Ellyn Park District Environmental Advisory Board; current Board member

Which of the following areas do you have expertise?

Management, Fundraising, Event Planning, Communications, and, other: Environmental education including recycling, sustainable swaps, safer food, cosmetic and cleaning products

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

During my time at Deloitte, I worked with multiple clients around the world and even spent time working abroad, both in India and Switzerland. This taught me how to consider ways to engage and more importantly to listen to multiple perspectives throughout the life of a project. I feel strongly about making sure all stakeholders feel “bought in” and listened to, as well as transparently providing feedback. I gained an understanding of how to effectively serve clients by creatively balancing their priorities and goals with the realities of a budget and timeline in which to accomplish those. I also learned how to identify strengths of my team members, then manage and motivate the group to work collaboratively towards our goals.

Additionally, in my experience with Beautycounter as well as serving on multiple volunteer boards in Glen Ellyn, I have learned different ways to engage community members. This has ranged from creating my own facebook group with 230+ members to share environmental and clean living tips, to creating and organizing a “Trash Talk” zoom to share recycling information with friends and neighbors, to planning in person “Green Gatherings” at the Glen Ellyn Library with the Environmental Commission. I have learned and continue to learn what it takes to create and engage a community both virtually and in person. I would love to bring these skills to the PFC and make it a welcoming place to gather and exchange ideas for community members, whether online, in person or both.

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

A trip to the grocery store is a part of our everyday lives, and my goal for the Prairie Food Coop is to make that grocery trip a bit more purposeful and magical! I see the PFC as a place where individuals feel connected to each other, the community, and our environment. There is a great opportunity to not only serve individuals who already value supporting local producers and socially conscious companies, but to include and educate individuals who haven't thought about these things before when they visit a grocery store. I would also love to see the PFC as a place where the “environmentally curious” can gather to learn more about ways they can have an impact on caring for our planet. Being environmentally friendly can sometimes feel intimidating, but we will need all of us to help protect the planet. There are a number of different ways people can play a role in caring for our environment by participating in the PFC, for example, making a more environmentally friendly purchase, or learning and engaging with other community members during an online event. By bringing environmental awareness through these opportunities and others, individuals can learn about what personal impact they can have on the health of our community and planet, and share that knowledge along to family, friends and neighbors.

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

I currently serve on the board of La Escuela Cooperativa de Sayulita, which is a cooperative preschool based in Sayulita, Mexico. La Escuela is a Montessori-based preschool for 3-5 year olds that offers a tuition-free education for families who participate, and has recently expanded to offer after school programs and summer programs. La Escuela Cooperativa collaborates with student families, educators and community members in its educational and community program offerings. I have advised in areas of communication and advertising, fundraising and event planning, and program planning related to gardening and composting.

Name: Tom Lamberty

Owner #: 180



Will you be able to attend Board Meetings that occur on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month 7pm - 9pm?

Yes

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

PFC is the 6th co-op that I have been involved in during my adult life. I originally joined PFC to help it get a full-service grocery store in or near downtown Lombard and would like to continue the work of making it a reality.

Employment: Please tell us about your Past or Present Employment

I held various management position at Metra, Chicago's commuter railroad, for 37 years in the Planning, Accounting, and IT Departments.

Volunteer: Membership/Affiliations past and present:

Treasurer and President of the Villa Park Library Board; Vice President and Secretary of the Board of Education for Villa Park Elementary School District 45; Den Leader, Cubmaster, and Scoutmaster for the Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts in Villa Park; Treasurer and President of the Board of the York Center Community Cooperative in Lombard; Treasurer of the Prairie Food Co-op Board of Directors.

Which of the following areas do you have expertise?

Management, Finance and Communications.

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

Please see the above listed volunteer and work positions that I have held.

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

To successfully complete the Community Investment Program and get our store opened.

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

Owner/customer of the Hyde Park Food Co-op, the Seminary Co-op Bookstore, Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative, New Horizons Supply Cooperative and the Prairie Food Co-op; and resident of the York Center Community Cooperative.

Name: Frank Marousek

Owner #: 639

Will you be able to attend Board Meetings that occur on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month 7pm - 9pm?

Yes

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

I want to contribute in any way I can to make our Food Coop successful.

Employment: Please tell us about your Past or Present Employment

I have been operating my own small business since 1965.

Volunteer: Membership/Affiliations past and present:

Formerly a Prairie Food Coop Board member.

Which of the following areas do you have expertise?

Management and Finance.

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

55 Years managing a small business.

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

To have success to the point of opening more stores.

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

None.



Name: Jerry Nash

Owner #: 1



Will you be able to attend Board Meetings that occur on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month 7pm - 9pm?

Yes

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

I want to help continue the excellence that the PFC board has put forth since day one.

Employment: Please tell us about your Past or Present Employment

I was in the Army, then cooked at a lot of places, then entered the grocery industry and am now in IT.

Volunteer: Membership/Affiliations past and present:

I co-founded Prairie Food Co-op and have worked tirelessly to open it since day one.

Which of the following areas do you have expertise?

Management, Fundraising, Marketing/Public Relations, Event Planning and Communications.

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

I co-founded Prairie Food Co-op and have been immersed in the food co-op world for nearly a decade. I think I am especially effective at outreach and marketing.

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

To see PFC funded, built, and opened.

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

I was a member Owner of Common Ground Food Co-op in Urbana IL and I am co-founder of Prairie Food Co-op. I also have a strong background in food service and grocery service.