



Frequently Asked Questions for Prospective Candidates

What is the Board of Directors and what does it do?

The Board of Directors is the governing body for the Owners of Wheatsville. It is composed of nine people, all Owners of Wheatsville, elected by Owners. A maximum of two Directors may also be employed by the cooperative, although all Directors represent the Ownership at large rather than any special subgroup. Terms for Directors may range from one to three years as needed to ensure no more than three terms are scheduled to expire every year.

The Board is responsible for ensuring organizational performance on behalf of all of Wheatsville's Owners. This work includes developing clearly stated expectations through written policies; delegating responsibility for, and authority over, the achievement of stated objectives; and monitoring compliance with written policies.

As Will Rogers said, "Even though you are on the right track - you will get run over if you just sit there." The Board of Wheatsville should be strategic and visionary with its view toward the future of our cooperative, rather than focusing solely on the short-term. The current Board has been focusing on three big questions:

- How can Wheatsville create a community centered on hospitality, kindness and generosity?
- How can Wheatsville support a robust cooperative economy?
- How can Wheatsville facilitate Austin's access to sustainable, healthy food?

By devoting time to focus on the big-picture vision of Wheatsville, the Board will ensure that we adequately position our organization for the maximum benefit of our Owners, as well as anticipate trends and values, which may have a critical impact on our relevance and survival.

The Board governs the organization and delegates all operational duties to one employee, the Chief Executive Grocer (the general manager of Wheatsville, Dan Gillotte). We are involved in strategic planning, financial oversight, Owner engagement, and community outreach.

What does the Board of Directors NOT do?

The Board of Directors does not make decisions about, become involved with, or take part in any of the day-to-day activities or decisions regarding the operation of Wheatsville Co-Op. The Board's sole official connection to the operations of the cooperative is through the Chief Executive Grocer.

What are the requirements for running?

Directors must be Owners of Wheatsville in good standing without a substantial conflict of interest resulting from an affiliation with any enterprise that is in competition with the Co-op (See Bylaws, Article 5.1.1, available at <http://wheatsville.coop/membership/board-of-directors/bylaws>). Once elected, Directors must sign a Statement of Agreement and publicly disclose any potential conflicts of interest. As for individual qualifications, Board experience is helpful, but not a prerequisite for Directorship. More important are: willingness to work closely and cooperatively with the other Directors; commitment to providing the time and

energy necessary to accomplish the Board's objectives and fulfill the required term; the ability to learn quickly; and organizational skills.

How much time would I need to put into serving?

The Board holds one regular meeting for three hours each month, at which attendance is expected. Beyond this regular meeting, the time commitment for a Director typically averages out to an additional two to three hours per week, including preparation for regular monthly meetings as well as specially-called Board meetings, and participation on committees. In addition, the Board holds a mandatory orientation session soon after the elections, providing basic training plus giving Directors a chance to relax and get to know each other better.

What compensation is there for serving?

Each Director receives a 10% store discount and a monthly stipend as follows: Board President: \$300; Officers: \$200; all other Directors: \$150.

I'm sure I have the time to commit, and I want to serve Wheatsville; how else can I make up my mind whether or not to run?

You may obtain additional information about serving on the Board of Directors by talking to a member of the Nominations Committee or any of the current Directors to get a personal perspective of what service on the Wheatsville Board of Directors is all about.

Owners are always welcome to attend the meetings of the Board of Directors on the third Tuesday of each month. You can see how the Board functions and meet the current Directors. You may gain useful perspectives on the issues currently facing Wheatsville. Additionally, the Board meeting minutes are posted on the Wheatsville web site, www.wheatsville.coop.

Candidates cannot be qualified for the ballot unless they attend at least one Board meeting. The last qualifying Board meeting is set for August 15, 6:00-9:00 pm @ Guadalupe.

When will elections be held?

The annual election begins in the Fall after the Board calls for a Co-op Vote. Voting lasts for at least 60 days and concludes with a Co-op Vote Confirmation Meeting open to the Ownership. The 2017 election will begin on September 10th and the last day of voting will be November 10th.

OK, I've decided to run - now what?

First, fill out the Board Candidate Application included in this packet. Then, **email your completed application to the Nominations Committee at nominations@wheatsville.coop by July 1, 2017 at 11:59 p.m.** Your personal statement, answers to the essay questions (see page 10), and your photograph will be published online, and in the *Wheatsville Breeze*. A one-minute video statement, though optional, is strongly encouraged and will be made available online as well. Wheatsville staff will coordinate with you about your video statement.

It sounds like a big step!

And worthwhile! As a cooperative, Wheatsville is only as strong as its Ownership. The Board traditionally has been a diverse group of people with a wide range of skills who have brought the store to where it is today – 40 years serving the Austin community as a vibrant organization that benefits our Owners!