

CANDIDATE STATEMENTS OF 2017 BOARD NOMINEES



Candidate Statement - Ana Maria Rodriguez

As a co-op member of nearly eight years, CM continues to serve as an important and integral part of my lifestyle. My well-being, both nutritionally and physically, could not be maintained without our co-op. From the outside, both managers and employees provide consistent positive member and customer service, but of course, room for improvement is also a constant factor. There, I'd be honored to bring to the table a reasonable approach in helping to solve even the most challenging issues.

Thanks for your consideration.



Candidate Statement - John Jennings

Currently am managing a group of fifteen (15) engineers with a multi-million dollar budget. Have a strong background in technology including construction, electrical, automation, and web technologies. Have extensive knowledge of business and financial planning – including multi-year plans and budgeting. I have attained my Project Management Professional (PMP) certification which is used to develop business requirements documentation, specifications, schedules and budgets. Have promoted industry products using product marketing techniques including customer presentations, conferences, and marketing collateral aimed at increasing revenue and market share.

I currently have a small side business – *Turkey Creek Gardens, LLC* – where we grow ~70% of our families food. We also sell our excess into Chatham Marketplace and restaurants around Pittsboro. Growing up, my family had a large farm in Southern Ohio that I worked on in high school and value how much effort it takes to bring produce to market.



Candidate Statement - **Christine Maurer**

I became an owner and regular patron of the Chatham Marketplace after moving to Pittsboro in 2010. I am looking for an opportunity to be involved in the local community that also fits my values and strengths. I believe our physical and mental health starts with good quality food and have found the marketplace to be essential for that in Chatham County. The focus on supporting local agriculture, products and organizations combined with attentiveness of the employees helps transform an everyday chore into a pleasant shopping experience. I have worked for a non-profit corporation for over 10 years and would like to leverage that experience for the Marketplace while also learning more about the business model for a cooperative and owner-based business.



Candidate Statement – **Bern Kosek**

I like Pittsboro and want to see small locally owned businesses, including the Chatham Market, succeed.

I am an ardent cook, baker and gardener. I enjoy exploring different cuisine and food.

My personal healthcare revolves around my own knowledge of myself, of nutrition and supplementation. Having a well-stocked co-op is essential to my success with this.

I was a member of a Seattle Co-op and bought everything there from bulk cooking oil to laundry soap. I would like to see Chatham adopt some of these package saving ideas by coaching member/customers on the advantages. Having experienced the benefits of great Co-Ops in four states I know what a vital part of the community they can be. A resource for all people to use for product, knowledge and societal...

I think Chatham Market can cultivate an awareness of healthy, sustainable business practices.

I have extensive business experience that I think will help the Board. I also work in childcare and my involvement with these families has increased my awareness of what families want in their kitchens.

I am excited for the potential opportunity to be a Board Member of Chatham Marketplace. I grew up in Sanford but have been in Pittsboro for almost 2 years now. Prior to moving here when I would visit, I would often go to Chatham Marketplace and feel jealous that I didn't have this great co-op market near me.



Candidate Statement – **Rhonda Mathis**

I would like to join the Board not just because I love the Marketplace, but also because I care deeply about supporting and growing the local economy and also about local agriculture and food. The Marketplace is such an important part of bringing safe, healthy food to this community. Another bonus is that the Marketplace supports local growers and makers by selling their products alongside other trusted providers.

I would bring to the Board my experience with Community Development that I gained from serving on a Community Organization in Charlotte. I served for 5 years in the positions of Secretary, Treasurer, and President. We worked in a fragile/transitional neighborhood, applying for local and national grants and bringing improvement projects and community building events to the neighborhood. Additionally I have a lot of experience with financial planning through my job as a Commercial Project Manager that would also be a benefit.

Thanks for your consideration.