

## **Have you ever considered running for the Linden Hills Co-op Board of Directors?**

Serving on the board is a responsibility and an opportunity open to all members of Linden Hills Co-op. Within the cooperative structure, the members, the management and the board each have their own particular duties. An active, well-qualified board is essential to a healthy co-op. We know our membership is diverse and talented; we hope you are willing to serve.

### **Board Responsibilities**

Guided by the Ends Policies of the co-op, the job of the board is to:

- Set long-range goals and make strategic decisions about the co-op's future
- Ensure sound management of the co-op's resources
- Safeguard the interests of our member-owners

To fulfill these responsibilities, the board focuses on these key areas:

- Hiring, supervising and evaluating the co-op's general manager
- Setting acceptable guidelines for store operations and monitoring the results (through a policy governance process)
- Planning for the co-op's future
- Understanding the needs and desires of member-owners
- Approving capital and operating budgets
- Recruiting new directors to ensure a well-qualified board

The board does not make operational decisions for the store, choose products, nor supervise staff (other than the general manager).

### **What are the qualifications necessary to be a board member?**

Leadership experience in business or community organizations is a great asset. It's important for board members to understand how a business operates, though you don't have to have "corporate" experience to serve. Experience with budgeting, reading financial statements, communications, marketing and long-range planning are helpful. Being able to work with

management and functioning as part of a cooperative team are very important—as well as having a passion for what the cooperative stands for!

### **What commitment is required?**

Board terms are three years, and board service may require up to ten or twelve hours per month, depending on current board projects. Directors attend monthly meetings as well as special meetings as needed. One or two daylong planning or training sessions may be scheduled each year. Board members also attend the annual membership meeting.

### **Is compensation offered?**

Each board member receives a monthly stipend of \$75 (\$125 for officers), distributed quarterly as a co-op gift card, which can be used to purchase goods or services at both Linden Hills Co-op and Linden Hills Natural Home.

### **Is training or education provided?**

Yes. New board members attend an orientation once elected. The board holds an annual planning retreat, and on occasion, board members may attend co-op conferences.

### **Are there other benefits to being on the board?**

You'll have the satisfaction of knowing you are using your skills to ensure the continued success of a community-owned home-grown business. You can provide leadership on important issues such as cooperative ownership, sustainability, community involvement, and consumer advocacy. At the same time, you'll meet great people and get a fabulous free meal catered by the co-op's deli at every monthly board meeting!

### **For more information:**

Contact Jason Inskeep, Board President, at 612-279-2379 or send an email to [board@lindenhills.coop](mailto:board@lindenhills.coop). You'll have the opportunity to meet with a member of the nominating committee informally to ask questions and learn more about this great opportunity.

### **Timeline:**

Applications for open board positions are generally due to the co-op by the end of July, but inquiries about board service are welcome at any time. Board members are elected by a vote of the membership that concludes at the Annual Meeting in October. Please contact the co-op for exact dates.