



Emily Townsend

I'm running for the TPSS Co-op Board of Directors to help create the co-op of my dreams.

TPSS is already a great organization, and meets many of my needs as a shopper. But I can imagine it being more, and because it is a cooperative, I have the opportunity to make it more! I'm currently serving on the TPSS Local Foods Committee, and am ready to give more of my time.

Our co-op runs by policy governance, which means that the membership and board of directors create a vision of what we want the organization to do, and hire a general manager to implement that vision. So here are some of my visions of the co-op of my dreams.

Provide access to sustainable, wholesome foods. Obviously, we're off to a good start: most of us probably joined TPSS because we buy stuff here! But I'd love to see more focus on local, seasonal foods and more information provided for customers about the sustainability of the food choices on the shelves. I'd also value more connections with the people who grow our food.

Provide opportunities for members to be part of a community. Volunteer members might allow us to educate the larger community about nutrition and sustainability, create events that promote community and the co-op, or find out about great products the co-op could carry.

Provide good flow of information between the members, the board, and the operational staff. I'd like to make it easier for the various sorts of decision-makers at the co-op to hear member voices, and easy for those decision-makers to communicate back to the membership the factors in their decisions.

Be a model of sustainable business practices. Yay bulk foods! What else can we do?

I am excited to bring my experience to the TPSS Board of Directors. I have been a member of natural foods co-ops for 20 years and TPSS for three years. I've volunteered for both of my co-ops. I'm currently serving on the TPSS Local Foods Committee. As part of that committee, I've been interviewing other co-ops about what has made them successful, and find it very inspiring!

I'm also a physicist. My career as a scientist and teacher has helped me develop my analytical thinking, careful attention to detail, verbal and written communication, and collaboration skills.

Over the last year and a half I've co-created an intentional community in Takoma Park, Maitri House. As a result I've gotten to practice group decision-making (we use values-based consensus), creative problem solving, emotional awareness, and more.

I believe I'd be an asset to the TPSS Board of Directors and would love to serve.