

*Please complete the following candidate profile and question form.*

**Bob Gibson**

*Candidate Profile*

1) Education (degrees held, schools attended, any relevant coursework)

Kenyon College, Gambier, Ohio, Bachelor of Arts

2) Present Occupation:

Consultant, Renewable Energy and Smart Grid Issues (focus on electric cooperatives)

3) Community Involvement (include volunteer service, outreach, etc.):

Past member of the Takoma Park Committee on the Environment (approx. 1997-2001)

Past member of the Board of Directors, Chesapeake Climate Action Network (approx. 2002-2004)

Active in Westmoreland Area Community Organization, Takoma Park

Peace Corps Volunteer (1977-80, West Indies)

Please check the following areas in which you have experience:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Group process and/or group decision-making
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Meeting facilitation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public speaking
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Writing newsletter articles
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Strategic planning
<input type="checkbox"/>	Accounting and/or finance
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Project management
<input type="checkbox"/>	Online file sharing and calendars (Google) or website editing or management
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Volunteer programs
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Past and/or present participation on a board of directors
<input type="checkbox"/>	Retail and/or Other Business experience
<input type="checkbox"/>	Legal training and/or experience
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other _____

*Candidate Questions:*

1. Why are you interested in serving on the Board?

I have been a member of and have worked with cooperatives for more than 35 years. I strongly believe in the cooperative form of business and understand that healthy and successful cooperatives depend upon the active participation of their members. I am at the stage in my

career where I have the time to devote to service of a cooperative business that I believe is a vital part of the Takoma Park community.

2. What experience or involvement have you had with the TPSS Food Co-op or other cooperative enterprises or Boards of Directors?

In addition to membership and patronage of TPSS Food Co-op since 1998, I have been a credit union member since 1981 (currently SECU). In my professional life I have worked with electric cooperatives and energy cooperatives since I became an employee of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association in 1981. For ten years I traveled throughout the U.S. and wrote about cooperatives for the association magazine. During that time I won many writing and photography awards from the Cooperative Communicators Association, and through CCA became familiar with the work of a wide variety of farm, financial, services and consumer cooperatives in the U.S. and Canada. I went on to other positions at NRECA, including five years helping bring electricity to underserved areas of developing countries in the international program, and six years managing energy efficiency and renewable energy activities in the association's research group. I also worked for three years for a start-up alternative energy services cooperative beginning in 2000. At present I am an energy consultant with the majority of my work in the cooperative sector. When I was a Peace Corps Volunteer in the late 1970s, one of my projects was assisting in the start-up of an agriculture marketing cooperative. In the 1980s I researched and wrote about the origins and current state of the cooperative movement in England, visiting Rochdale and interviewing cooperative business leaders and members in several parts of the country. I served on the initial board of directors of the Takoma Park-based Chesapeake Climate Action Network in the early 2000s.

3. What skills, qualities, formal training, education, or professional or volunteer experience would you bring that directly contribute to the mission of the TPSS Food Co-op?

I have extensive professional experience with cooperatives and a deep understanding of the cooperative business model, as outlined above. I am a skilled writer, photographer and editor, and I have been a public speaker on renewable energy and electric utility issues for more than 20 years. I have developed and managed education and training programs for three non-profit businesses. I have experience facilitating meetings on community energy issues with stakeholders from a variety of viewpoints. In six years as a vice president with the Solar Electric Power Association I led strategic planning and worked closely with the non-profit's board of directors on the development and execution of SEPA's mission.

4. What is your favorite Co-operative Principle and why?

Each of the Principles contributes to the unique nature and strength of the cooperative business model, but I am particularly drawn to the principle of Cooperation among Cooperatives. I have seen firsthand over and over how cooperative businesses have survived and thrived as sustainable, healthy businesses in the face of competition from larger for-profit companies through cooperation. This cooperation takes many forms, from networking and sharing of information to the leveraging of the buying and market power of cooperative federations. While I realize that Cooperation among Cooperatives may not appear to be the most relevant or important principle to the day-to-day business of TPSS, I look forward to exploring ways that it may be further utilized to improve service and add value to the TPSS membership.

5. Is there anything else you'd like to share or address?

I think it is both an exciting and exceptionally important time to be active in the TPSS Food Co-op as development occurs at the Junction and elsewhere in Takoma Park. People who have worked with me in other organizations know that I have a positive, optimistic outlook, work well with others, and am a consensus builder.