

# French Broad Food Co-op Board of Directors

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What does the board do?**

The [French Broad Food Co-op Board of Directors](#) is the body elected to represent the [ownership](#), and hold ultimate legal responsibility for the operations and actions of the co-op. The board ensures sound management of the co-op, acts as trustees on behalf of the membership, and sets long-range goals and plans for the future.

### **What does the board NOT do?**

The board does not make operating decisions for the store, choose products, nor do they supervise staff other than the general manager.

### **When and where are the board meetings?**

Board meetings are held monthly on the third Thursday upstairs from the store (in the Movement and Learning Center, MLC) from 5:30-8 pm.

While all owners are encouraged to attend meetings, interested applicants are especially encouraged to attend. All board meetings are located at 90 Biltmore Ave, Asheville, NC 28801.

### **How long is one term?**

One board term is three years.

### **What is the monthly time commitment for a board member?**

The total monthly time commitment varies throughout the year depending upon committee assignments and intensity of board work. Generally, directors can anticipate putting in between 3-12 hours a month. Directors are expected to attend the annual meeting for owners and be present for at least nine monthly meetings per year, per term. They are also expected to spend 1-2 weekend days a year at the annual board retreat.

### **What are the committees of the board?**

Currently, the committees are undergoing a revamp, therefore the only active committees are the Finance Committee and the Elections/Nominations Committee. Committees can be made up of

owners-at-large, board members, and staff members. Each committee develops and recommends plans and policies that are passed to the board for approval.

### **How do the board and committees make decisions?**

Guided by the [French Broad Food Co-op bylaws](#) and consensus decision making practices, the members work together to build consensus.

### **Will there be training for the newly elected board members?**

Yes! All newly elected board members will receive training on consensus decision making, finance, organizational overview, and more.

### **Who is eligible to run for the board?**

Board seats are open to all current owners (account must be current as of May 3, 2020) of the co-op who have accurate contact information on file and agree to meeting the board requirements.

#### Qualifications

- Be 21 years of age or older.
- Be an owner in good standing as of May 3, 2020.

#### Requirements

- Attend at least nine monthly board meetings per year (third Thursday of each month, 5:30-8 pm), board retreats (1-2 weekend days per year), the annual meeting for owners in late spring, as well as occasional co-op events and special meetings scheduled on short notice as needed (these are rare).
- Have frequent, reliable access to phone and email to read and respond to emails between meetings.
- Read and study co-op bylaws, policies, articles of incorporation, industry articles, information on the board's governance model, and other co-op related material.

- Serve on, and possibly chair, a board committee.
- Commit to a term of three years.
- Work cooperatively with other board members to monitor, evaluate, and consult with the general manager within the decision-making process of the board.
- Uphold the duty of loyalty by disclosing potential conflicts of interest, not compete with the cooperative, and honor confidentiality.

**What if I face a challenge that prevents me from fulfilling the requirements or qualifications?**

We want to hear from you. Please contact [ashley.see@fbfcboard.org](mailto:ashley.see@fbfcboard.org) should you face any barriers to applying.

**How do you run for the board?**

Complete the application process by May 13, 2020. [Fill out the application online](#). For further accommodations, please email [ashley.see@fbfcboard.org](mailto:ashley.see@fbfcboard.org).

**What happens after you apply?**

The board and staff will prepare the election materials for the June 3rd – July 5th elections. Candidates will be notified by mid-July, and voting results will be posted in-store and online. Those elected will begin serving in August 2020.

**Will there be an opportunity to communicate to the ownership?**

Yes! Each board applicant is invited to make a short speech to the membership at the 2020 Annual Meeting on Jun. 3 (video is available if you cannot be there in person). Answers to the questions in the application will be publicly available to the ownership.

**Are board members compensated?**

Board members receive a 20% discount on most store purchases.

## **Why should you consider becoming a board member?**

If you care about the direction of the Co-op and want to get more involved, then becoming a board member is something you should consider.

While governing an organization effectively is a serious commitment. Directors are expected to prepare for and actively participate in monthly board meetings, full-day cooperative board leadership training, and 1-2 half or full-day retreats (length and frequency depends on availability). While this may seem daunting, the board is a team, sharing responsibilities to make board work a manageable part of a director's life. The monthly time commitment ranges from 3-12 hours. The board term is three years. Directors may not be elected to more than two consecutive terms.

In return, directors:

- Receive training in governance and cooperatives.
- Build skills in group-dynamics and group process.
- Enjoy dinner from FBFC at each board meeting and receive a 20% discount on all FBFC purchases throughout board service.
- All expenses of training and retreats, including food is covered.
- Have the opportunity to ensure the success of their community-owned cooperative in a highly-competitive market.
- Create and nourish a healthier environment, healthier people, and a healthier community!