



PAUL GRIFFIN

Share a little about yourself. Please provide a few sentences about your hobbies, interests, family and/or career, and community involvement.

My wife and I have three children (26, 23, & 18) – and we all enjoy our Co-Op experiences. We are a very active family that enjoy backpacking, water skiing, hiking, biking, and golfing.

As a commercial real estate professional, I've considered countless retail investments. I have come to lament the fact that investors and lenders desire retail developments with name-brand tenants, which perpetuates stale developments and limits local business expansion. Consequently, my wife and I have attempted to eschew chains and led us to become Friendly City Co-op members.

Why would you like to serve on the board of Friendly City Food Co-op? Have you ever served on a board before, and if so, which one(s)?

I have recently found myself looking for volunteer opportunities for meaningful contribution. I've served on numerous boards and sub-committees in the field of education: (1) elementary school board and finance committee, (2) high-school board and finance committee, and (3) Regional Board of Education.

What particular skills, knowledge, and/or life experience do you bring to Friendly City Food Co-op that enables you to support and advance its mission?

My background in real estate has given me broad experience with operations analysis. Furthermore, my brother and I own two assisted living facilities in the area and understand the challenges of owning and managing local businesses.

What experience do you have with Friendly City Food Co-op, Co-ops, and small businesses?

My only direct experience with Friendly City Food Co-op is as a consumer. As noted above, I'm a small-business owner and understand some of the challenges.

Friendly City ignites my passion for... local ingredients.

The item I can't live without at Friendly City is... Follow Your Heart parmesan cheese.