

GreenTree Cooperative Grocery
214 N Franklin St
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

Phone: 989-772-3221
Website: greentree.coop



Statement of Board Candidacy

Name: Ray Davies

Residence: Mt. Pleasant, MI
(City, county, township)

Contact information: yar1006@yahoo.com

(Optional)

Years active: 13 Years

1. What skills and experiences would make you a valuable director for GreenTree?

Experience with Food Co-ops: I have been active in Co-ops since the 1970s as a shopper, member and volunteer. I served on the GreenTree Board from 2005-2007 and have been on the Board again since 2014. I am currently the Board Vice-Chair.

Relevant non-profit experience: For several years, I was the Co-Director and principal grant writer for Food For Free (FFF) in Cambridge, MA – a food rescue organization distributing chiefly fresh produce to pantries, shelters and meal programs in the Boston area. Prior to that I picked up and delivered food for FFF (6 years or so).

Working with others: I have an education background, especially in music, and have taught in early childhood, elementary, and college settings.

Business experience: I have run my own piano tuning and repair business since 1987.

Development workshops: I have attended 3 separate day-long workshops sponsored by the CDS Consulting Co-op to become a more effective Board Member and deepen collaboration with other Co-ops.

2. Why are you running?

GreenTree is an important institution locally. It not only provides an alternative to mainstream grocery stores, but is also an innovative economic and community model. It is worth our investment and effort to keep it fresh, thriving and vibrant. I am especially interested in helping to guide the transition to a larger store. I enjoy collaborating with other Co-op Board Members, Owners, and staff.

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3. Looking five to 10 years into the future, where do you see GreenTree and by what path would you take to get there?

I would like to see GreenTree consolidate and build upon current strengths to continue to promote organic, local, and non-GMO foods. Ideally, the Co-op would evolve into a community hub that is accessible to all and easily reachable on foot, bike or bus. Space for meetings, classes and other educational activities, expanded catering services, and a larger deli with café seating are additional resources that could deepen customers' and Owners' involvement in the Co-op. Importantly, the Co-op must work to provide a living wage and good benefits to all employees. I want the Co-op to be a great place to work and shop. An expanded store is necessary to realize this vision.

4. Where do you think GreenTree as an organization (not the store) is least developed where it ought to be, and what would you do to address that?

One important area where we could develop GreenTree as an organization is through Board development and creating a more dynamic relationship between the Board and Owners. How can we better ourselves as Board Members – developing new skills, deepening our knowledge and challenging preconceptions? How can we create interest amongst diverse Owners in wanting to run for the Board, or to interact with the Board in furthering GreenTree's cooperative mission?