

Susan T. Golightly

Candidate Statement

I sometimes have a hard time believing that I have decided to run for the Co-op board. I think I decided to do it because in a very real way the Co-op is a focal point in my daily life. I shop at the Co-op almost every day. It's like it is part of my Silver City life. Silver City would not be the same without the Silver City Food Co-op. It's like the hub for downtown Silver City life.

To put it bluntly, I love our Co-op.

I am in favor of the Co-op moving to Pope Street. I think it is time for the Co-op to expand and bring in some of the more suburban and rural members of our community. Of course, I will be sad to see our store on the corner of 6th and Bullard St. be empty. Maybe there will be a solution to that. Maybe there will be a way to keep a Co-op presence there. I know we need to sell that building to pay for the new one, but one can hope. On the other hand, it's only around five or six blocks from the old location to the new one. So, I'm thinking—more walking, more biking, better health, and stronger muscles.

I am relatively new to eating healthy and sustainably. It all started around 14 years ago when I realized I could not continue my life as it was. I needed to be true to myself, so I transitioned from male to female. However, that is not all I did. I transitioned from a consuming lifestyle to a sustainable lifestyle. I mean as sustainable as I am able to be. We don't buy plastic bags, and we wash and re-use the ones we get from shopping at the Co-op. Everyone in our house (5 people plus friends) eat organic, responsibly, and sustainably.

At least as best as we can. I know I don't always make the best food decisions. But, I'm a work in progress. I think we all are.

I think I'm kind of an odd bird to want to be on the Co-op board. I don't do a lot of cooking. I don't garden. And I don't pay a lot of attention to the latest supplements or the latest fads in healthy fruits and veggies. I don't buy any of the liquids at the Co-op. Now, if our new store sells wine, I'll be a big customer. I do buy my honey there most of the time—that's sort of a liquid.

Oh, and I do buy half-half for my coffee, and of course, bone broths and soups. I just don't buy canned or bottled drinks. Maybe I would if they were sold in bulk. I'm a fan of the bulk food department. I think Evan is doing a great job. Actually, I think everyone that works there is doing a great job.

So, what can I bring to the Co-op? I'm a successful businessperson. I built the Silver City RV Park and the Silver City Self-storage. I owned my own real estate brokerage, which was quite successful. I have had several other businesses in the past such as a bookstore, a sandal shop, a printing business (We printed about everything on Mt. Desert Island), a headshop, an import store, and a pot (flower) hanger business. All my businesses were successful. While in Silver City, I was the president of the Silver City/Grant County Board of Realtors and a state director for the Real Estate Association of New Mexico. I was on the Board of the Home Builder's Association, the Southwest Christian Center, and the Grant County Pilots Association. Currently, I am on the board of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, the New Church of the Southwest Desert, and the Town and Country Garden Club.

My time will soon be up for several of those boards so that I can concentrate my focus on the Co-op board.

However, I think the most important thing I bring to the board is that I am a people person. I love my community and the people in it.

I would like to help maintain the friendliness and helpfulness of the Co-op. I see the Co-op, amongst other things, a resource center for people exploring healthy living and sustainability. I would like to help organize workshops and learning opportunities towards that end.

I have lived in Silver City for 32 years. I believe strongly in supporting my community. I know my answers below may look pretty grim, but for those who know me, they know that I follow through with my commitments. I have served our community in many other ways for many years. I feel it is time I serve our community through being a member of the Co-op board.

Questions:

1. Have you participated in Board Member in Training (BIT) this year? no
2. Have you served on a Co-op Board committee? no
3. Have you served on a previous board? yes
4. Have you attended a board meeting this year? no
5. Have you ever volunteered for our Co-op? no
6. Have you ever worked for a Food Co-op? yes

