

Jay Smeltz  
Monadnock Community Market  
Board Application-4 Questions  
August 29, 2011

1. **Why do you want to serve on the Board of Directors of MCM Co-op?**

I feel that I have skills, energy, and experience that can contribute to the work that's well underway to make the MCM Co-op a viable member-owned business.

2. **What are you passionate about? How could we see that passion in action in your day-to-day life?**

I am passionate about building and renewing community, both bricks and mortar-style and working collectively with others. I like to be part of formal and informal community networks that create senses of place and purpose, and help fulfill both individual and collective potential.

3. **Describe an experience where you worked on a team. What did you offer the team? How did you compromise for the team's benefit?**

I was a member of the United Way Allocations Committee for 3 years. We offered our personal time, prepared reports, and shared our recommendations about funding levels. We each made our decisions after listening to other team members. We learned the importance of thoughtful discussion; the need to "get to yes" so limited resources could meet the greatest needs; and that compromise can be a productive, community-strengthening process.

4. **You've recently been elected to the MCM Board. A close friend and local food producer privately asks you to help her business by having the Board publicly denounce the alleged unethical business practices of her closest competitor, whose products are already sold at MCM. The business owner says she will deeply discount MCM orders for her product for a year if you help her. Briefly describe two or three possible ways you could handle this situation, and how you would ultimately act.**

I'd share that the GM and staff make purchasing decisions based on business needs, and coop principles and values. I'd explain that neither the GM's nor board members' roles include offering economic advantage based on friendship or allegations of a misdeed. I'd discuss the coop governance structure and responsibilities.

If the allegation was the competitor's products were harmful, or were being misrepresented, the allegation should be brought to the GM's attention by my friend. The GM, not a board member, should independently verify the allegations.