

September 12, 2017

Bisman Community Food Co-op
P.O. Box 22
Bismarck, ND 58502

Dear Bisman Community Food Co-op Board,

I am writing to express interest in joining the Bisman Food Cooperative's volunteer Board of Directors. I am a founding member of the Bisman Food Co-op, and I am truly grateful to have access to healthy and local foods in my hometown.

Through describing my work and passion for local food systems, I hope that you will see why I would be a positive addition to the board.

I grew up just north of Bismarck, where my parents grew organic produce and bedding plants. My father helped start some of Bismarck's farmers markets that still live on today. At a young age I was able to see how local foods brought people together. Not only did farmers markets supply healthy local food, but also they connected people with their communities. I view the Bisman Food Co-op in this same way.

While working in our greenhouses, I developed a love for plants and soil, which led me to open a pesticide free landscaping company in 2007. I also obtained a Permaculture Design Certificate in 2010, which expanded my knowledge of soil health and the importance of community. I am proud to say that River Road Gardens Inc. (RRG) has been beautifying our cityscape, while also being earth conscious, for the past decade.

As sole owner of RRG I have learned many lessons in business and leadership. Most importantly, I have found that in order to be successful you must first build a strong foundation of people and equip them with the tools to prosper. My employees have worked hard and have built something far greater than I could have alone.

Although, I have not previously served on a board of directors, I believe my experience as a female entrepreneur and desire to support local food systems while creating stronger community would render me as a great addition to the board.

Thank you for your consideration and for all the energy you have put into making our food co-op a great place.

Sincerely,
Ellen M. Knudsen

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