

# Make a Difference!

by Stephanie Mood, Board Director

The recent announcement that Amazon plans to purchase Whole Foods has created much buzz in the grocery business world. The competition for more market share, and therefore more money for the two businesses, has dominated the discussions. However, something crucial is missing.

Judy Ziewarcz, President and CEO of the National Cooperative Business Association reports, “In the rash of stories that have since popped up, none of them counted as a reason, a desire by Amazon (or Whole Foods, for that matter) to provide its customers or employees more local control, ownership or benefits than either corporation currently provides.”

What’s missing in the discussion is that Amazon is not keeping any money in our local communities. Amazon is not offering its customers ownership in the business. Neither Amazon nor Whole Foods is a cooperative business.

Cooperative businesses are democratically run. Those who invest in the co-op are owners who have a vote and a voice. At Ocean Beach People’s Food Organic Food Market, a California consumer food cooperative, board directors are volunteers who meet to oversee the finances, do strategic planning, and hire and evaluate the Co-op’s General Manager. To accomplish this necessary work, we have formed four committees: Outreach and Education, Planning, Finance and Nominating.

Currently, the Nominating Committee is meeting to plan the 2018 election of new board members. We invite your participation! If you are interested, please come to a meeting and see what we do. All meetings are open, and visitors are welcome. If you wish to join a committee, you can fill out an application available on the Co-op’s website [www.obpeoplesfood.coop](http://www.obpeoplesfood.coop) or at a meeting. Your committee membership would involve one meeting on the second or third Monday of the month.

As fellow owners of our beloved 45-year-old food cooperative, which will soon include a new vegetarian café, we invite you to join one of our board committees. We need you to participate in our democratically-run business! (August 2017)