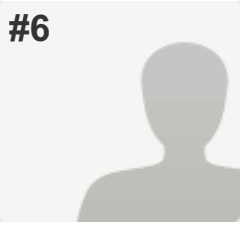


#6



COMPLETE

Collector: survey collector (Email)

Started: Thursday, March 12, 2015 9:47:57 AM

Last Modified: Sunday, March 15, 2015 11:21:44 PM

Time Spent: Over a day

First Name: Anne

Last Name: McGihon

Email:

Custom Data: City Council

IP Address: 50.134.239.230

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Q1: What is your name please?

Anne McGihon

Q2: Which Counsel district do you hope to represent?

District 7

Q3: Please tell us the best way to contact you if we have a question..telephone or email. Please provide either or both in the comment box below.

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Q4: Do you believe it is the ultimate obligation of City Council members to represent and advocate for their constituents in the neighborhoods they represent, rather than expedite the Mayor's office or private businesses that may benefit from these types of transactions between governmental entities?

Yes,

Comment:

A council representative's first obligation is to their direct constituents.

Q5: Do you believe that preserving strong public neighborhood schools in each of our communities is very important to the viability and strength for the future of our neighborhoods?

Yes,

Comment:

Without families, neighborhoods are not stable. Families look to strong schools in selecting the neighborhood in which to raise their children. Strong neighborhood schools are a core element to the strength and viability of neighborhoods.

PAGE 5: I. DESIGNATION OF UNDESIGNATED PARKS, PROTECTION OF OPEN SPACE, MORE PARKLAND

Q6: INC, in response to a request from the Department of Parks and Recreation, formed a committee to aid the department's effort to designate undesignated parks. While this committee has made progress over the past two years, the work is not finished. Would you support a concerted effort within all city departments affected to complete the designation of all undesignated Denver parks that are legally available for designation?

Yes,

Comment:

I'd like to work with Mayor Hancock to further implement the vision for Denver Parks promulgated by Mayor Webb.

Q7: In addition to designating undesignated parks, we also need to prevent the transfer of open space within designated parks to institutions within parks. Over many years, open space in designated parks has been re-allocated by the Manager of Parks and Recreation to institutions within parks such as recreation centers, museums, and zoos. It is important that open space within parks is protected. Would you ask for policy changes to protect open space within designated parks?

Yes,

Comment:

Maintaining open space as open space in our parks is a vital aspect to maintaining the health and wellness of the general public as started 100 years ago with the precepts of the City Beautiful movement.

Q8: There is inadequate urban parkland in Denver given the size, density, and expected growth of Denver's population. For example: The city had 555,000 residents in 2000 and is projected to have 700,000 in 2020. While the Hancock administration may add additional parkland to the park system, the current plans focus on the acquisition of land at the periphery of Denver. We need parkland in the center of the city where the population is growing and "density" is a goal of the administration's urban development plan. Would you support the acquisition of additional parkland and open space within the center of the City of Denver?

No,

Comment:

More parkland needs to be included in every development project that increases density with a portion of the development fees set in escrow for acquisition and maintenance of the new parkland and not available for use as general fund expenditures. Creation of new parkland must be a required component of each new development.

Q9: The urban parkland that does exist is viewed increasingly as a site for multiple and oftentimes conflicting purposes-- opportunities to experience nature, spaces in which teams can play, and sites for large festivals. These uses of the same land has created problems within our parks including damage to parkland and vegetation, limitation of public access to parks, and distress for neighborhoods bordering parks (eg., unacceptable levels of noise, traffic congestion, threats to public safety, and problems parking). As a result, a site is needed for large ticketed events such as festivals that is not located within neighborhoods. Well-lighted playing fields with bathrooms and parking outside of city parks are also required. Would you support the development of a Festival Site?

No,

Comment:

Denver has access to existing alternative sites, such as All City Stadium owned by DPS, that could be used for such events as festivals, large athletic events, or other large ticketed events. The long-standing use of the portable band shell set up for summer evening concerts in the park contributes to the quality of life in various neighborhoods throughout the city. A policy that might limit this continued practice would be detrimental to neighborhoods.

Q10: Would you explore opportunities for and support the development of playing fields outside of city parks for Denver citizens?

Yes,

Comment:

I would want to explore use of existing playing fields that are under-utilized at many of DPS school sites. However, use of the parks for athletic activities is a core element of their purpose.

PAGE 7: III. USE OF RECYCLED WATER IN PARKS

Q11: Would you ask the City administration to convene a panel of independent experts in plant physiology, soil chemistry etc. to evaluate the safety of the type of recycled water used in our parks and to report the results to the public?

No,

Comment:

This evaluation should be an automatic part of existing park practice. If it is not, then I wholeheartedly support making this happen immediately.

Q12: If the risks of the type of recycled water currently in use are found to be too high, would you support all steps necessary to eliminate these risks?

Yes

PAGE 8: IV. PARK ADMINISTRATION

Q13: Effective government requires citizen engagement. INC has received multiple complaints and over many years pertaining to the use of parks. Complaints include the difficulty citizens have in influencing park policies. A new Office of Special Events has been formed by the Mayor and its function will have an impact on what events occur in parks. Would you advocate for INC representation on an Advisory Board for the Office of Special Events?

Yes

Q14: Would you direct funds to the Department of Parks and Recreation to ensure enforcement of park rules and regulations within the entire park system?

Yes

PAGE 9: V. PARK FUNDING

Q15: Denver's park and parkway system is grossly under-funded. A broad range of funding sources must be pursued in order to sustain and to expand Denver' park system. This funding includes local and state-level dedicated revenue sources. Denver is surrounded by municipalities that fund their parks with a tax levy dedicated to parks. Would you support a tax levy to provide a stable funding source with which to acquire land for parks, open space, a festival site, playing fields, and for maintenance of all these for Denver's park system?

No,

Comment:

After becoming familiar with the details of Denver's city budget, I may be willing to support the creation of such a levy in the future. Currently, with the consistent bi-annual increase in property taxes, I believe the general public feels what they are paying should fund core city services such as maintenance of our parks and parkway systems.

PAGE 11: Discretionary Projects

Q16: If elected, would you support an increase to Public Works funding for discretionary projects in neighborhoods?

No,

Comment:

I cannot respond to this question because I do not have sufficient information about the current discretionary projects or how Public Works makes its budgetary decisions.

PAGE 12: Commitment to Vision Zero

Q17: Would you support Denver joining the ranks of cities that target elimination of traffic deaths and serious injuries as a moral priority by adopting a Vision Zero approach?

Yes,

Comment:

I would work toward adopting such an approach because I agree that there is no moral position that any loss of life is acceptable.

PAGE 13: Best Practices regarding sidewalk installation and maintenance

Q18: Would you support Denver pursuing and implementing best practices from other cities regarding sidewalk installation and maintenance, with the goal of increasing walkability?

Yes,

Comment:

I would support investigating best practices from other cities with regard to walkability and safe streets. Current code, however, puts the financial burden on individual property owners for the care and maintenance of sidewalks. Like with many other current ordinances, there is inconsistent enforcement. Implementation of recommended best practices would have to take into account the financial burden on property owners. Coordination with other transportation modalities would be vital to the implementation of any successful or effective changes.

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Q19: . Would you support the City of Denver engaging consultants to study the effects of parking on neighborhoods in areas where high rise development is contemplated prior to approval of the development. If so, what parking study process would you suggest?

No,

Comment:

I totally support the study of the effects of parking on neighborhoods in areas where high rises are contemplated. I believe this should occur as a routine practice of the creation of development plans with costs borne by the developers. Any study process I would suggest must include the parking ramifications of the surrounding commercial establishments such as restaurants that attract high traffic volume as well as the impact of higher density residences.

Q20: Do you believe the 2010 Zoning Code adopted by City Council in 2010 has benefited all neighborhoods in Denver or some neighborhoods? Please cite examples.

No,

Examples:

The new zoning code has not benefitted neighborhoods. Requests for up zoning are routinely approved while requests to correct errors in the new code are denied. As with the previous zoning code, enforcement is scarce except on street cleaning days. Many older neighborhoods are experiencing interior infill at the same time that RTD is reducing services. Like with the old zoning code, the process under the current code continues to routinely pit neighborhoods against developers, which is unfair to both parties.

Q21: What changes do you believe need to be made to the 2010 Zoning Code, if any, and why.

A simple response would not be adequate to address the complexity of this question.

Q22: Will you urge the Mayor and city officials to appoint representatives of residential neighborhood organizations to all city boards, commission, advisory committees, collaborative groups and task forces which consider planning and zoning issues. If so, describe the efforts you would take to ensure such appointments are made.

Yes

Q23: INC has been advised that the Director of Community Planning and Development is recommending Blueprint Denver be revised and updated. Do you support such a recommendation and describe what process you would support to ensure neighborhood participation.

No,

Comment:

The focus should be on improving the process for informing and involving stakeholders at the soonest phases of any proposed changes to existing code or with any proposed development. Improving this process would be a primary area of focus in my work as District 7 council member.

Q24: Please describe your vision of "smart growth" for the City of Denver in ten words or less. The vision should capture stakeholder expectations of your anticipated leadership on City Council.

A coordinated land use plan that achieves a mixed-use transit-oriented, walkable and bicycle-friendly environment.

Q25: . Entertainment districts which extend the hours for alcohol to be served, often until 4:00 a.m., have been adopted in a few cities throughout Colorado. Would you support an entertainment district in certain areas in Denver? If so, where and until what time?

Yes,

Comment:

I would have to see and study any proposal but I would have an inherent bias to protect the quality of life of residents.

Q26: Short term rentals, that is rentals for less than 30 days are now illegal in Denver residential neighborhoods. Do you support the adoption of an ordinance which would permit short term rentals in Denver residential neighborhoods. If not, why not. If you would support an ordinance to allow short term rentals in residential neighborhoods, please describe the process you would support, including the process for funding.

Yes,

Comment:

I would consider a new ordinance to allow STR's that include an owner-occupied requirement and consistent lodging and use taxes that should cover the costs of the permitting process and enforcement.