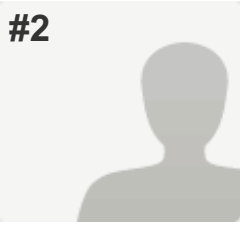


#2



COMPLETE

Collector: survey collector (Email)
Started: Saturday, March 07, 2015 6:04:58 AM
Last Modified: Saturday, March 14, 2015 6:36:46 AM
Time Spent: Over a day
First Name: Paul
Last Name: Kashmann
Email:

Custom Data: City Council
IP Address: 65.128.81.38

PAGE 1

Q1: What is your name please?	Paul Kashmann
Q2: Which Counsel district do you hope to represent?	District 6
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?	<p>Yes,</p> <p>Comment: I believe the land swap in question was done in violation of both the letter and spirit of the City Charter. The residents of Denver were cheated from what could have been a most informative debate about the merit, or lack thereof, in trading park land for non park uses. In my role as publisher of Washington Park Profile, I spoke out repeatedly and firmly in opposition of the swap. My vote would have been to retain the park land, but I think all sides would have benefitted if the charter had been honored and a full debate had taken place. While I have no direct information that a "back room deal" was made, I can tell you that most people I speak to in the district believe that was the case.</p>
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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:

I have written repeatedly in support of neighborhood schools. Social ties between children and families are strengthened when kids go to their local school. The local economy benefits when neighborhood schools flourish. The role of the school as a community center is strengthened. I take pride in playing a part in promoting the current Renaissance under way at Grant Beacon Middle School specifically, as well as the ever-strengthening neighborhood schools movement throughout south Denver. I have also lent support to a variety of DPS advocacy groups like South High's DADS which is a group of local fathers – many with very young children going to different elementary schools – working to support South High, so by the time their children are ready for high school, it will be the clear school of choice for all neighborhood youngsters.

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 believe the decision of DPR to move quickly on the designation issue is a veiled admission that the land swap at Hentzell Park never should have happened without a vote of the people. I think it is imperative that the designation process be completed promptly, and that a close examination be done to ensure that no parcels are intentionally left undesignated without sufficient justification.

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:

Land use decisions in Denver Parks should return to City Council, rather than be controlled by the DPR administrator, a Mayoral appointee.

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?

Yes,

Comment:

Absolutely. Community grows in open spaces, not in the isolation of a built environment.

PAGE 6: II. ACQUISITION OF PLAYING FIELDS AND A FESTIVAL SITE

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?

Yes,

Comment:

If the development of the National Western site goes as planned, I will work to ensure a festival site remains a high priority, while recognizing that it's creation must be done with sensitivity to the nearby communities of Elyria, Swansea and Globeville. Should that long-term project be derailed for any reason, I would push for a search for an alternative location.

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

Yes,

Comment:

As Denver's population continues to grow and pressure increases on our parklands, we must search out alternative spaces for our competing park uses. Athletic fields, a velodrome/cycling complex and the like would help reduce the crush on our limited and overworked green space. I would love to explore the creation of a year-round indoor facility for soccer/volleyball etc. Denver's beautiful Mountain Parks system shows that Denver residents can benefit from investment outside our immediate borders.

PAGE 7: III. USE OF RECYCLED WATER IN PARKS

INC 2015 Candidate Survey

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?	Yes, Comment: I fully support such a study. Protecting our foliage and tree canopy is critical to maintaining the quality of our parklands.
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, Comment: I would support mitigation whether it comes by better treatment of recycled water, or switching to an alternative water source.

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, Comment: I think an advisory panel would be very appropriate. I believe INC participation would be equally appropriate. Meaningful neighborhood involvement in all city processes can only help preserve the wonderful neighborhoods that are such a major element of what makes Denver a great place to live.
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, Comment: I believe an effective Park Ranger presence is essential to proper management of an urban park system beset by the intense pressures that come along with an ever-growing population and rosters of competing uses like Denver is currently experiencing.

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?

Yes,

Comment:

There are so many competing areas of interest that would benefit from a tax levy - public safety, infrastructure, affordable housing, education/training initiatives etc. - I would prefer another funding stream. That said, I believe the maintenance and continued growth of Denver's green spaces is critical to our city's wellbeing, and I look forward to working with INC, Council and the Mayor to arrive at a funding mechanism that ensures the ongoing health of our park system.

PAGE 11: Discretionary Projects

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

Yes,

Comment:

As I mentioned above, competing needs put constant pressure on limited funds. However, based on the surprising consistency with which constituents have complained about congestion on our roadways, I have given improvements to our transportation services and infrastructure a very high priority on my to-do list as Councilman. I will push hard for increased funding for the projects you mention.

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:

Vision Zero has had great success worldwide. I support its implementation in Denver.

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 like to see Denver neighborhood sidewalks repaired as needed with the city contracting the repairs and then billing homeowners at a group discount rate rather than having them tagged individually and forced to pay single-job pricing. In neighborhoods without sidewalks, I would encourage installation where feasible without undue disruption to tree lines or private property. Streets without sidewalks should have some sort of traffic calming measure - bulb outs at intersections, signage, etc. - to alert drivers to expect pedestrians in the street.

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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?

Yes,

Comment:

We can no longer afford to minimize the effect that large developments have on the parking crunch already driving motorists to distraction and neighborhoods to the brink of insurrection as they become defacto parking lots for projects that underestimate the needs of their inhabitants and visitors. Developers should pay for parking studies that should be contracted out by the city to ensure objective data is gathered. The city must do its part by maintaining accurate and current traffic counts in high volume areas.

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.

Yes,

Examples:

It appears the new code has reduced rezoning requests which is good. Predictability is a good thing for residents and developers alike. However, it also appears that the city tends to lean towards approving rezoning requests based on the developers claims that "I can't build a quality project unless I get more size," rather than turn it down based on neighbors objections based on concerns about traffic or parking impacts and loss of quality of life (sunshine, view, less density, etc.) Some neighborhoods had property rights diminished by changing zoning to allow only one home on a lot, while others were allowed duplex construction. Some neighborhoods - a small percentage - were allowed the right to ADU construction while others were not. The shift of allowing the manager of Denver Parks and Recreation to make land use decisions in the parks, instead of City Council, has caused difficulty in several neighborhoods already (Hentzell Park, City Park). Reduction of land use requirements in GDP projects by allowing developers to calculate open space on a net basis rather than gross, is a negative for all neighborhoods. If this is not changed by the time the new Council is seated, I will work to see that change implemented. We need more open space, not less. Maintaining a 5' side setback requirement in this day and age when huge homes are being built almost on top of one another exacerbates the problem of insufficient open space. I will look at opportunities to increase that setback.

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

There needs to be more time built into the rezoning process so city staff has adequate time to assess and respond to neighborhood concerns before the matter goes to Planning Board, so meaningful dialogue can take place early in the process.

The power for land use decisions in Denver parks needs to be returned to City Council.

Open space requirements on GDP projects should be maximized, rather than minimized. And the GDP process must not provide opportunity for zoning to be secondary in the planning process.

We should reconsider appropriate set back requirements in all residential zones.

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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,

Comment:

I will lobby my fellow Council members and the Mayor's office to ensure neighbors are included in planning and zoning issues of all sort.

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.

Yes,

Comment:

The revision of Blueprint can be a positive if the basic tenets of Areas of Stability continue to protect established neighborhoods, and Areas of Change continue to guide development in the appropriate direction. Neighbors must be intimately involved in this process to prevent the intent of Blueprint to be highjacked by the development community. I am also looking forward to playing a role in the addition of a full transportation plan to Blueprint. I think this area is critical to the ongoing health of our community. Neighbors must be included on whatever task force or committee is charged with the rewrite, and a robust public engagement element must be a full part of the process.

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.

Growth for Denver's sake, not growth for profit's sake.

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 like to see a pilot program in the downtown area, before it is extended elsewhere. I have no particular time in mind when alcohol service should stop, and would look forward to a discussion with local neighborhood and business groups over that issue. Entertainment districts also allow for open carry of alcohol in many cases, and more freedom on alcohol service in public areas. This also needs to be carefully negotiated by all stakeholders.

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:

The key element is not whether we pass a law or not, but how we enforce the prohibition we have now, and how we would control permitted behavior and violations of any new ordinance if the decision of Council is to allow short term rentals in some form. Short term rentals are a fact of 21st century life. Unless the courts forbid businesses like AirBnB and VRBO from carrying ads for short term rentals in areas that forbid them, there is no way to prohibit the activity from taking place. Thus, we must regulate as best we can. If we do not pass an ordinance permitting some degree of short term rentals, the main issue is controlling problem situations that arise from the illegal activity. Past situations have taken months to over a year to resolve. This can not stand. We must shorten the time it takes to stop disruptive activity in our neighborhoods. If we decide to pass an ordinance it needs to be user friendly and affordable so those who want to rent their properties are encouraged to get licensed, be inspected by the appropriate city agencies and pay the relevant lodgers taxes. And, we need to have a rapid response process in place so problem situations are dealt with quickly, and neighborhood impacts are minimized.