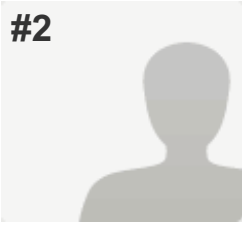


#2



COMPLETE

Collector: survey collector (Email)
Started: Friday, March 13, 2015 9:19:51 AM
Last Modified: Friday, March 13, 2015 10:46:02 AM
Time Spent: 01:26:11
First Name: Susan
Last Name: Shepard
Email:

Custom Data: City Council
IP Address: 174.51.104.52

PAGE 1

Q1: What is your name please?	Susan Shepherd
Q2: Which Counsel district do you hope to represent?	District 1
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: I was only 1 of 3 votes on City Council with the courage to vote against the abominable Hentzell Park land swap that traded valuable open space for a school. I knew it was wrong from the beginning & I am still very concerned about what happened there.
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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:

100%. I believe the school choice model doesn't work for all families. Only those who can afford private transportation and skills to search for alternative schools benefit - DPS doesn't provide buses to students desiring to go to a different school other than their home school. I also believe it is an environmental disaster with parents driving frantically around the city in the am & contributing unnecessarily to morning rush traffic & contributing even more emissions to lower air quality standards. From the beginning of my campaign I have advocated to improve the walkability of District 1 so that families can work, play, recreate, shop & raise a family very close to where they live, and thus reduce individual reliance on automobiles.

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:

Yes as Chair of the Infrastructure & Culture Committee since July 2014 I have continued to advocate for this with Parks & Rec and the Administration.

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:

Qualified answers - I would need to evaluate this on a case-by-case basis.

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

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:
Yes - the Stock Show Redevelopment Plan creates just such an opportunity at a site that will have adequate space & parking & isn't located immediately adjacent to neighborhoods.

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

Yes

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: I am not aware that this is a problem.

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

<p>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?</p>	<p>Yes, Comment: I think INC's inclusion on this body should be mandatory.</p>
<p>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?</p>	<p>Yes</p>

PAGE 9: V. PARK FUNDING

<p>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?</p>	<p>Yes, Comment: Absolutely. There is no way under current budgetary restrictions that the general fund will be able to adequately fund & maintain all the necessary infrastructure investments that would bring our parks up to level that the residents of a world-class city deserve.</p>
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PAGE 11: Discretionary Projects

<p>Q16: If elected, would you support an increase to Public Works funding for discretionary projects in neighborhoods?</p>	<p>Yes, Comment: As Chair of the Infrastructure & Culture Committee this is absolutely my #1 priority for the city.</p>
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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 support this concept, but there is not enough information provided here for me to be able to speak specifically to Vision Zero.

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:

100%. I am on the Board of Walk Denver which successfully advocated for the creation of MPAC. Creation of a city-wide sidewalk policy is one of my highest priorities for Denver.

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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:

I think this needs to be a very big focus of the forthcoming update to Blueprint Denver and all Neighborhood Plans that follow.

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:

Growth has been very lopsided in some areas of the city while others have languished. The market has strongly driven growth in Council Districts 1, 6, 7, 9 and 11 while District 2 and 3 are in desperate need of some reinvestment & revitalization.

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

I believe the addition of thoughtful overlay district that can help better sculpt and guide new development to be more compatible with already existing development. We need to strengthen language to define and incentivize true mixed use districts and to better clarify what ground floor activation means. I also think parking requirements may need to be adjusted to close certain existing loopholes regarding small lot redevelopment and near transit.

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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 have sent many letters of recommendation on behalf of residents trying to become appointed to Boards & Commissions.

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:

Wider distribution of all promotional materials to optimize turnout, Use of telephone town halls or webinar tools to really push a much broader participation rate for many residents who are interested but can't leave home due to obligations regarding children or elderly family members living in the home.

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.

Efficient, sustainable, walkable, livable, prosperous, inclusive, safe, vibrant local businesses.

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?

No,

Comment:

I think there is plenty of opportunity for entertainment in Denver already and that 2 am is an adequate "closing time." We are not Las Vegas and we don't want to be.

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:

Must pay taxes! Prefer a license. Possible limits on how much a residence can be used for such activity, potentially requiring some owner occupation, or restricting #'s of days or amount of square footage that can be used for such a purpose.