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Page 1: Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation Parks and Rec Committee Survey

Q1 What is your name please?

Candi CdeBaca

Q2 What Office are you running for?

Council

Page 2: Further questions

Q3 Which council district are you running for?

Council District

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Q4 Regardless of the office you are running for, if you were appointing the Executive Director of Parks and Recreation Department, what education and previous experience would you expect the person to have?

I would expect direct experience with Parks & Rec. My dad devoted his life to Denver Parks & Rec running the Glenarm and Montbello Rec for over 20 years. I don't think that a director should come from any other field. Other fields I would consider include environmental groups, anti-environmental racism groups and/or legal groups with experience in protecting open space and access.

Q5 Will you support an ordinance moving OS-A zoning from the Ex. Director of Parks back to City Council? If not, why?

Absolutely. I believe that public services and good should be depoliticized. Because Executive Director of Parks and Rec is currently an appointed position, that puts the use of public and open space into a politicized context. With a great mayor that prioritizes open space, that is not a bad context to have. However, with a mayor that does not prioritize open space, that puts open space in a very vulnerable position at the mercy of an appointee. I would like to see council have decision-making authority over this type of zoning and not an appointee. This will help establish not only checks and balances but perhaps trust in government in Denver.

INC PARC 2019 Candidate Survey

Q6 What would you consider is adequate green space for high density development, for example Elitch's. What steps would you take to ensure the zoning requirement for green space is adequate?

I believe that the current standard of 10 acres per 1,000 people is insufficient. We are already one of the hottest heat islands in the country. New development is getting away with the minimum, plazas. While plazas are important, plazas alone are insufficient. New development can accommodate much more or be taxed appropriately to do so elsewhere. With our recent greenroof initiative, I believe there are ways to ensure nearly 100% of new developments also provide green space with their developments. We have to have more thoughtful planning of our environment and development so that there are parks within a mile of every resident in the city.

With specific regard to Elitch's, the park/riverfront should not be private. It should immediately be designated a public park and the riverfront itself should not count in the developer's burden to provide greenspace.

Q7 The use of recycled water in Denver parks appears to be causing the premature loss of many mature evergreens. Is that an acceptable trade-off for accommodating more population growth or should the city spend money to untie remediation measures to save those legacy trees? Please explain your answer.

Killing mature evergreens is never worth it. If we know definitively that the cause of death is the salinization of recycled water, we must course correct immediately. Not all parks have these trees so analyzing what areas have the trees and finding alternate methods. The loss of a tree is worth far more than currently acknowledged as they act in many different ways cleaning our air, absorbing stormwater and countering the heat island effect of our development. This city was founded as a city within a park and disregarding the work that went into making that a reality is negligence and poor stewardship of our public dollars. We should be exhausting all measures to protect the environment in our state and city as it is what I have heard to be the primary pull factor for those migrating to our city.

Q8 What would you do to protect and enhance waterways going through Denver?

I live next to the South Platte which is a contaminated waterway. We need to devote resources to holding higher offices accountable for remediating the pollution and for making waterways safe and accessible. This requires partnerships with other counties in the region, federal and state entities tasked with oversight and regulation. I would happily use my platform to bring attention to protecting our waterways by any means necessary.

Q9 What aspect(s) of INC Parks and Rec Urban Platform do you support?

I love and support all of it!

My favorite part is in the key assumptions, "assumption #2" which states that "there is a need to implement community-based process for the development of park policy."

I don't think Denver's development should be happening TO us, it should be happening WITH and BECAUSE of us.
