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

**Q1** What is your name please?

Sabrina D'Agosta

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**Q2** What Office are you running for?

**Council**

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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?

Experience in government, parks and/or recreation, management of large organization, demonstrated commitment to the outdoors/nature/open space/recreation and equity.

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

Yes. I believe that all zoning should be under the purview of City Council, as representatives of their individual neighborhoods (at district level) and the city as a whole (at-large). I think this is important in regard to accountability for our zoning as a whole, and the parks system. I would like to learn more specifics on what has and hasn't worked with it being in the Parks Department, and work toward solutions that ensure the four priorities set forth in the INC PARC plan are better implemented.

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## 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 think it's always important to research the latest information available to guide and inform our policies. Denver now has less than 10 acres of parkland per thousand people, and much of that is not in walking distance from residents' homes. We need a bold vision to double the available parklands in 10 years, and we need it to be supported by a mission that clearly identifies parks as areas for all our residents to experience nature and open space, especially in an increasingly dense built urban environment. I'd like to see us match the green space zoning requirement to ensure we are able to achieve the doubling of parklands in Denver in 10 years. While we will clearly need to do so in many ways beyond just requirements on new development, it's a critical component. It makes sense to me that we would want to achieve at least 10 acres per thousand people in high density developments, if not more. In particular, with the Elitch's redevelopment, it's also important to consider the context in which the property sits as a critical component connecting other adjacent parklands, as well as how much parkland we may be losing in the process. We should, at the very least, be replacing existing parkland 1:1, as well as any additional needs for increased density.

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**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.

We should absolutely spend money to protect and preserve our city's legacy trees. Denver's old trees are a part of our neighborhoods' history, they are extremely valuable assets to our parks and our quality of life. We should absolutely take whatever steps we can to save them. In addition, I think it's imperative that we are conserving water by watering our parks at the most water efficient times, and that all new plantings utilize native plants to the highest degree possible.

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

I believe the health of our waterways is critical for environmental, health and recreational reasons. The South Platte River and its tributaries have historically been extremely polluted. Thanks to the work of organizations like the Greenway Foundation, we're seeing major improvements. I think we must ensure that we are working with Public Works and Denver Water to ensure that we're cleaning up stormwater pipes that dump into our waterways. I'm a huge fan of the Gutter Bin pilot program and would like to see that expanded throughout the city to help filter the water going into our stormwater drains. I also think the city can do more to enforce people picking up after their pets and to provide public bathrooms, particularly near waterways, to ensure we are keeping our waterways clean. In District 1 specifically, I would also very much like to see a priority on cleaning up our lakes, which residents have asked for years to have water quality improvements that will allow them to enjoy light recreational opportunities with safety.

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

I have read the INC Parks and Rec Urban Platform, published in January 2011, in full. I assume it has not been updated because we haven't made ample progress on the goals set out at that time, which is devastating. I am a huge fan of the City Beautiful Movement and have been deeply saddened to see our city squander opportunities to expand the vision for our parklands for people as our city has grown at such an exponential rate. As our city becomes more and more dense, it's even more important that ALL our residents have the opportunity to enjoy open space and nature, ideally within walking distance of their homes. I agree completely with the entire platform. We need a clear mission statement that clarifies the purpose of our parks being for the health of our residents to experience open space and nature in our city, and we need a vision that drives us to significantly increase the amount of urban parkland and its equitable availability to all our residents. Having created and managed the City of Golden's park and event permitting process, I am hugely in favor of establishing clear criteria for the use of our parks, which will make clear and prioritize the sustainability, equity, engagement and economics of our park usage.

The only point of the INC Parks and Rec Urban Platform I would like to discuss further is around the creation of a dedicated park or venue for events. I was recently asked about this in a VISIT Denver questionnaire and I said that my initial thinking is that I would not support that idea, but am open to hearing more input. I think that having events and festivals throughout the City better allows for residents to attend and participate regardless of where they live (equity and engagement), and it also helps ensure that no one neighborhood or area alone is subject to the more inconvenient impacts of all the events and festivals (sustainability and economics). In addition, various neighborhoods throughout our City have events and festivals that are particular to their own communities, histories, cultures and traditions, and I am in favor of protecting and preserving those traditions in our neighborhoods, especially as Denver neighborhoods struggle to maintain and preserve their unique character as the City grows. Having said that, I'm not a fan of having multiple large-scale events that close our parks to the public or that negatively impact the health of our parks because of how many we are having. If that is driving a need for a dedicated park, I'd like to learn more about that proposal and how it would be paid for.

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