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

Q1 What is your name please?

Robin Kniech

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

Page 2: Further questions

Q3 Which council district are you running for? **At-Large**

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?

Management experience would be key, both over a sizeable budget as well as over a large organization/staff. I'd also want to see experience with planning and/or capital project oversight to ensure they can manage the acquisition and improvement of new park land made possible with the new sales tax. While experience with parks and/or recreation is also desirable, subject matter expertise is easier to learn than skills that take years to develop, such as managing personnel or overseeing capital projects and planning. I'd want to see experience with public engagement/communications.

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

Yes

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 in a hard policy minimum that is more clearly outlined than it has been in the past. 10% is an appropriate minimum, not counting tree lawns along streets, but possibly counting passive green space that doubles as storm water detention in flooding events but is dry and useable most of the time. But I strongly believe in customizing negotiations for each large redevelopment where city funds or other agreements are involved, so that we can adjust the ask based on the circumstances, for example if there are ample or scarce parks nearby, whether there are equity concerns with the history of the neighborhood etc, so in some cases the ask could be as high as 20%. CPD is in the midst of updating major development open space standards right now and I've advocated to have more detail than the first draft I saw on green space, I'm waiting to see the new draft to determine if it moves us in the right direction, hopeful that it will.

INC PARC 2019 Candidate Survey

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.

I would suggest we need two different approaches. For trees already being watered with recycled water, we need to continue to utilize the mitigation and research efforts that have already begun:

- 1) testing for sodium and chloride so we understand levels
- 2) trying sodium blockers and/or mulch that reduces sodium content as water seeps down to roots
- 3) hand watering trees with potable water
- 4) working with Denver water on the sodium content of recycled water.

Based on the results we need to be prepared to continue/expand mitigation to save existing trees, considering re-aligning irrigation systems to potable water especially for conifers if/when systems need upgrading or replacing anyway.

For new irrigation, we should plan potable water for conifer irrigation unless/until we get to a defined solution that protects their health using recycled water.

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

We can and should use new sales-tax dollars for parks to help improve waterways through access projects, cleanups or redesign of invasive vegetation etc. We also must work to better clean the storm water running into our waterways, as the largest source of contamination, through greener storm water infrastructure including detention/seepage through green spaces rather than just piping directly into the waterways.

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

The most recent "platform" I could find on the website was from 2011, so I am responding to that document. As described above, I strongly agree with the need for more/expanded parkland, both through public purchases of land and by ensuring new development includes open space and/or parks. And I actively supported the dedication of revenue that has now been achieved. I agree that a festival site to focus larger events would be beneficial, and am hopeful that we're headed in that direction with the river open space planned for the NWC and possibly within the future redevelopment/improvements envisioned for the Boettcher site within the Denver Performing Arts Complex, though that is not yet a firm plan, just an idea that has been discussed. I agree that not every park should be activated with events/festivals all of the time, have supported the moratorium on new events in the most used park to try to spread new activities into a broader array of parks to minimize impacts of repeated events in the same, most popular parks.
