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

Q1 What is your name please?

Amanda Sawyer

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 the Executive Director of Parks & Rec to have an educational background that includes a Masters Degree in business, management or some recreation-related field. I would also expect that this individual would have at least 12 years work experience in managing personnel, including experience working with many different age ranges and in a large city.

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

All of Denver's zoning decisions are made by City Council, with this exception. I have never understood why a single person can make decisions regarding OS-A zoning, but a majority of 13 Council members is required for every other zoning decision. This is another example of short-term thinking that needs to change. All zoning decisions should be made by City Council.

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?

According to <http://www.demographia.com/db-uscitypark.htm>, the average US city has 12.77 acres of park land per 1000 people. Because of our proximity to the mountains, our city history, and our outdoor culture, Denver should be a leader in providing open space for our communities. Instead we are significantly behind after the population boom of the past decade. This needs to be remedied immediately across our city. To me, it doesn't matter if the development is high density or whether we are talking about one of Denver's many single family neighborhoods. We need to do much better at prioritizing green space for our community members, and I do not believe it would be unreasonable to have a goal to double our current acres of land per 1000 people using resources from the sales tax initiative passed by voters in November.

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.

Unfortunately, I do not know enough about the specifics around this issue to answer this question. Is it due to pollution in our waterways? Is it due to pollution in our air? What is causing these evergreens to die as a result of using recycled water? I look forward to learning more about this.

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

Denver's waterways need to be clean. Full stop. And right now, they are polluted and unsightly.. It is shameful and we need to do more to clean it up. Our waterways should be a place where Denver's hardworking families can spend time outdoors in our beautiful weather. That means they need to be safe, accessible and clean. That is a project that Denver needs to take on immediately, and will involve partnership with numerous entities that are currently polluting our waterways, as well as partnerships with organizations that can help clean up areas where polluters have left behind a legacy of ecologic damage.

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

The sales tax initiative that passed in November did a lot to further the INC Parks & Rec platform, since much of it was focused on finding a dedicated source of funding for parks in Denver. However, in addition to that, I believe the document highlights the most pressing issues that face our communities when it comes to green space and its uses. My only problem- if you could even call it that - with the document is that it is a bit outdated. Due to significant changes in Denver the past 18 months (passage of dedicated funding stream, Grandoozy Event, etc.) some of the issues discussed need to be updated to reflect the positive outcomes that have occurred.
