INC PARC 2019 Candidate Survey

#39

COMPLETE

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

Q1 What is your name please?

Mike Somma

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 want to appoint someone who has the executive experience necessary to run a large, important city department--but I would also want that person to have experience in managing conservation and growth.

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 the zoning process should be cohesive.

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

I am not an expert in what would be "adequate," but I do know that more than 50% of Denver's area is paved-over, and that we lose more green space every year. We need to reverse that trend.

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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.

While I am concerned about the premature loss of these evergreens, Denver's water quality problems extend far beyond trees, and I think increasing our water re-use is of paramount importance in a drought-prone state facing the effects of climate change.

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

The DDPHE's 2018 water quality survey concerned me. The fact that water quality deteriorates as waterways pass through Denver is a problem, and we need to prioritize the inclusion of green infrastructure in new developments in order to mitigate the contaminating effects. In a city as beautiful as Denver, it's unacceptable that our waterways are not safe for swimming or fishing.

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

I think that your push for greater clarity of purpose is important. If we do not have a shared vision for our parks and open space, we won't achieve the goal of expanding green space in a purposeful, cohesive manner. The push for dedicated funding is also crucial.