SPARKER'S SOAPBOX

Questions for
Naples City Council Candidates

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Date: 2/1/2024

1. About you:

- **How old are you? 60**
- **How long have you lived in the City of Naples, and where did you live previously? 35 years, Jacksonville Florida**
- **What is your educational background and past work experience?**

Prior to her public service, Mayor Heitmann had executive roles with Lancôme and Revlon and was also as an assistant to the Vice President and buyer for the retail company Body Shop and Jarrod's. Her expertise is in marketing, sales, long-range planning, and purchasing. Mayor Heitmann has been a resident of Naples for two decades. She and her husband Jeff, a physician, reside in the Aqualane Shores neighborhood where their children attended Collier County Public Schools. She served as Aqualane Shores Association president and is active as a volunteer in auxiliary groups within the medical community and the school system. She is also the visionary founder of Boys and Girls Club of Collier County.Mayor Heitmann continues to be very active in the community, having served as a board member with the Collier County Juvenile Justice Committee, Drug Free Collier, the Florida Planning Council, and City Representative for Collier County Public Schools, to name a few. During her tenure on the City Council, she chaired the Environmental and Energy Committee of the Florida League of Cities, and served as Secretary of the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council (SWFRPC). In addition, she was a member of Regional League of Cities. Teresa Heitmann was elected Mayor of Naples in March of 2020 after serving two terms on the Naples City Council 2008-2016.

2. What are your thoughts on the proposed NCH Heart and Stroke Institute and its location on NCH's Downtown Naples campus?

I believe the community deserves world class healthcare and I support a plan that will deliver that while still respecting our neighborhoods. I believe in flexibility for projects like this that are a service to our community at large. I helped develop a pathway forward for this plan that would respect our Charter.

3. **Do you support the Naples Airport continuing to operate at its current location along Airport-Pulling Road? What are the most important considerations with respect to a potential relocation of the Airport?**

   Our Airport brings a great deal of value. My opponents have spread mis-information about Council's engagement in support of a study to move the airport. This is not true. The Airport is doing a relocation Study of their own origin and expense. Council had no involvement. My opponents say I will support sending planes over other neighborhoods. This is categorically false. We have a population that is significantly impacted by exponential growth at the Airport and we must address that. Moving the problem to other citizens is not and never will be acceptable to me.

4. **What are the most important factors to be considered by City Council as it is asked to approve redevelopment proposals for the 5th Avenue South Extension, Four Corners, and Davis Triangle areas?**

We must first consider and respect our building codes. My opponents have been willing to circumvent the codes for more intense development that negatively impacts the community and our resources. I am not willing to circumvent those codes or give up our alleys to developers for great density. We need to consider congestion, the impact on our roads, conduct proper traffic studies, consider consequences to our stormwater system, the erosion of our resiliency, and most importantly the impact on our citizens quality of life by these projects. We are first and foremost a residential community and these projects must benefit "our" community.

5. **What are the most important environmental (especially water-related) issues facing the City of Naples? What measures can and should City Council take in the next four years to address them?**

Improving our overall resiliency and upgrading our stormwater infrastructure as it relates to flooding is paramount to protecting our residents and their property values. We know the next storm "will" come and we are even affected by heavy rain. We must finish the Beach Outfall Pipe Project that the State mandated 14 years ago. It was ignored by my predecessors, including my opponent ,which has made this very complex project more expensive. I immediately initiated it when I took office and we have not waivered. Continuing to clean our lakes to protect our bays and identifying sources of the pollution to solve the problem at it's core and hold those accountable is important.

6. **Some people generally want to limit any new development and keep Naples the way it is. Others are generally opposed to any infringement on property owners' rights. Where do you fall on the continuum between the two?**

Our residents #1 concern was and still is over-development and all the negative impact it brings. I have set us on a new course of balance and I will not waiver. I believe our only path forward is with optimal balance between resident and commercial interests. It is critical to our preservation to follow principles of smart redevelopment that benefits our residents. My job is to protect the

property rights of our residents and not to increase harmful intensity and density of development. I strongly support property rights and our right to govern locally.

7. Was there a City Council vote during the last four years in which you disagreed with the outcome? If so, why did you disagree?

We had the most diverse and thoughtful City Council seated that we have in years. When there has been consensus I have agreed with it. It represents our democracy and diversity. We are facing a candidate who is openly running a slate of candidates to advance his agenda. They have been public and emphatic about it. I find it shocking and I think it is dangerous and a dis-service to our democracy, our City Vision, and our residents.

8. What three things do you want to accomplish in the next four years?

We need to finish the review and update of our Comprehensive Plan. It is the blueprint for our governance. Our citizens have spoken in our Vision Survey about how they want their future to look and our Comprehensive Plan puts that to action. I also want a more comprehensive plan for our levels of service in our infrastructure. What can we deliver, what growth can we sustain, how much water can we continue to give to the County? And I want to continue to protect the community from overdevelopment traffic and congestion.

Please email your responses to Sandy Parker, sandy@sparkers-soapbox.com, no later than February 2, 2024.