



Questions for  
Naples City Council Candidates

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1. About you:

- How old are you?
  - 58
- How long have you lived in the City of Naples, and where did you live previously?
  - We have lived in Naples for 13 years. Before that I have lived and worked in Huntsville AL; London, England; Zurich, Switzerland; Cleveland, Ohio; and Birmingham AL.
- What is your educational background and past work experience?
  - B.S. Degree from Auburn University; Advanced Management Program at Harvard Business School; CPA
  - CFO at Avocent (public technology company), InfiLaw (education technology & services), ZeroChaos (HR & technology services)
  - Former Partner at PricewaterhouseCoopers

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

- I support providing the best possible health care for Naples residents. Accordingly I support the NCH Heart and Stroke Institute – particularly in its current form where NCH has listened to its neighbors and increased setbacks and landscaping, preserved the existing mature trees and expanded the Garden of Hope, and decreased the building and parking garage size so that it fits into the neighborhood.

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?
  - Yes, the Naples Airport is a valuable asset to and provides high quality services to Naples residents in its current location.
  - Relocation has been explored and would be extremely expensive and potentially very harmful to our ecologically sensitive environment
  - Instead the Mayor and City Council should seek to unite the City behind the Airport's plan to seek FAA approval for planes to fly "higher faster." This would benefit the entire City and is a better solution than just shifting noise from one neighborhood to another.
  
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?
  - I believe it is important for all commercial developments to comply with the City codes and Comprehensive Plan. If we find the codes or Comprehensive Plan are out of date or incomplete, we should go through a collaborative and transparent process with the appropriate internal experts and industry representatives to update them for everyone.
  - I do not believe in granting widespread variances and deviations as was done under prior Councils. I also do not believe in requiring some property owners who certain Council members may not like to have to go through extra hoops and delays that are not required of other property owners. City codes should be applied evenly and fairly in an open and transparent manner.
  
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?
  - We must accelerate efforts to implement the removal of the storm water outfall pipes from our beaches, clean up the lakes and bays, and develop a long-term plan to improve the City's storm water infrastructure. Too many times these initiatives are stalled by repetitive debates and lack of clear decisions and directions for City staff.
  - We need better pollution source testing in our lakes and bays so we can identify and stop the activities that lead to water quality problems. This is much more effective and efficient than after the fact remediation. The cleanup effort will involve cooperation with the County. Fortunately, I

have developed solid relationships with many of the County Commissioners so that we can develop mutually beneficial approaches.

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?
  - Almost all land in Naples has been developed so we are now dealing with redevelopment of older properties. Redevelopment should comply with our City codes and Comprehensive Plan. We must strike the right balance between preserving the Naples charm that we all love and still allowing property owners to utilize their private property rights as enshrined in the US and Florida Constitutions.
  
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?
  - I serve as an independent voice on City Council and have not been obligated to follow the instructions of any special interest groups. Accordingly I have disagreed with several votes including:
    - The mayor's recent property tax increase which was not needed to fund city operations. Instead it was earmarked for vague 'future city services to be determined.'
    - Failing to approve adequate police force compensation over the past three years.
    - Delaying critical storm water projects
    - Pursuing land development code changes in the wake of Hurricane Ian that would have harmed residents' property values
  
8. What three things do you want to accomplish in the next four years?
  - My top priorities are:
    - Accelerate storm water quality improvement and resiliency projects.
    - Implement project management processes and tools to review redevelopment proposals on a timely basis and get key projects back on track – including Pier reconstruction, hurricane recovery, and NCH's heart care facilities.
    - Address increased traffic in and around the city, pollution in Naples Bay, availability of housing, and needed infrastructure investments through collaboration with County Commissioners.

**Please email your responses to Sandy Parker, [sandy@sparkers-soapbox.com](mailto:sandy@sparkers-soapbox.com), no later than February 2, 2024.**