

2017 Beaches Watch

Atlantic Beach Commission Candidate Questions

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When answering the questions, please provide specifics as well as supporting data and facts wherever possible.

1. Important Issues:

- a. What are the two most important issues for your district that you would address as a City Commissioner?

The dramatic shift that is occurring in the character of our city - Scaled beach homes that have defined our city are being systematically demolished and replaced with large homes that exceed the lot size. Parking is a major issue facing our city. I will continue to examine our current codes and ordinances to determine if they are adequately protecting our character. It may be necessary to not only address percolation surface but also vertical space, I will continue to advocate for the protection of Atlantic Beach. I have worked hard to help establish a Beautification and Natural Resource Committee to protect our parks, trees and community spaces. The next step is to form to a "Parking Committee" to help not only identify parking problems, but also to help discover creative solutions that benefit the entire community. How would you propose they be addressed?

- b. In your opinion, what is the most important issue that should be addressed for the entire community of Atlantic Beach? What action would you propose?

Once again, I would have to say percentage of buildable lot.

2. Zoning codes: What aspects of Atlantic Beach zoning codes are not functioning and what would you do about it?

The percentage of buildable lot is problematic. This should be examined with input from the community at large

3. Citizen participation: Citizen participation in the government process is key to good government. What would you do to increase citizen participation in Atlantic Beach government?

I believe that we experience a very high rate of citizen participation. I would continue to expand on the path we are on. Atlantic Beach has several citizens groups that meet regularly to discuss topics important to our citizens. I enjoy attending these meetings so that I can have a clear understanding of the pulse of the city.

4. City staffing: Staffing has been an issue recently. What would you suggest to improve the process of attracting, hiring and retention of quality city staff?

Determine a way to eliminate the “Yo-Yo” staffing issue by allowing staff to do their jobs. Politics should not play a role in the day to day running of our city.

5. Seminole Road South Gate: Should the city open the Seminole Road south gate into Hanna Park?

No! This is a safety issue for me. We would have absolutely no control of the people who have access to Hannah Park. This includes campers who would have easy entry into our city. This is a belief I’ve held for a while stemming from my days working in public safety. In my opinion this gate should remain closed.

6. Mayport Road Corridor: What would you like to see happen in the Mayport Road Corridor?

I feel the only chance the Mayport Road has to improve the corridor is to lower the speed limit! This will benefit both the business owners and the residents alike. This can be the catalyst to attract more small business owners who would bring more goods and services to our community.

7. Parking: How would you address the parking problems at the Town Center and the beach accesses?

I believe that the formation of a “Parking Committee” is a great first step toward addressing the parking concerns. I have tremendous faith in the pool of talent found in our engaged citizens.

8. Budget: The Homestead exemption on the November ballot may result in reduced revenues for Atlantic Beach. How would you propose the city economize or raise revenue to cover the shortfall if the Homestead exemption is approved?

I am not in favor of symbolic political tax cuts while the cities financial needs indicate a potential shortfall in the near future.

9. Quality of life: What do you think is the most important quality of life issue for Atlantic Beach at this time? Please explain.

An economic shift potentially threatens the livability and character of our community.

10. Are there any other issues you would like to address? Please explain.

Pedestrian and Bike friendly assets are overly discussed and under served. This issue is at the for front for quality of life issues. The more the density increases, the more traffic we have. It is critical that we become a more walk-able and bike-able city.