

2022 Mayor/Council Candidate Questionnaire - Charlie Hodge

1. Should all sectors have affordable housing and permanent rental stock, or should one or two sectors be designated for rentals and designed for low income no income people?

All sectors would be ideal.

2. Should all neighborhoods have small complex care housing as has been suggested by research? All?

No but certainly there should be a number well managed and run.

3. One of our members was advised that in March 2023, the Ministry of Social Development & Social Innovation office will be moving from Dilworth Drive to the old CIBC building across from the Petro Canada on the corner of Dougall Road South and Highway 33. This has sparked concerns that community safety will be put further at risk as the population of repeat offenders and transients will increase even further and we have already seen a large increase over the last year. What actions would you take to ensure that residents are informed of matters that affect community safety in the area?

Council does not control what the Ministry does. Anything involving the city is very public, goes through a public process and covered by media.

4. Neighborhood Associations previously had access to speak at City Council meetings open to the public on any matters affecting residents living within their boundaries. Recent changes to City policies severely limited the ability of Neighborhood Associations to bring forward their concerns and discuss these at Council meetings. What would you do to ensure that Neighborhood Associations are included in decisions being made at the municipal level?

Neighbourhood Associations are meant to provide input, feedback and ideas to council. They are not elected or decision makers. said I believe they should have more access to talk with council. I would like to see quarterly visits with the associations and council to hear their concerns and ideas.

5. We constantly hear that 'community safety is everyone's responsibility'. Do you think that this has contributed to a level of vigilantism within the community?

No. First I have not heard that nor is it a logical correlation.

6. What would you like to see municipal, provincial, and federal governments do in terms of addressing safety concerns in our community (as well as others)?

Federal and provincial government need to create greater supports for the court system to house criminals so that repeat offenders are not back in the street. We need homes built for those with mental health issues, proper full compendium drug recovery housing, more police, more judges and more education about how to live safe.

7. Do you support replacing the current Kelowna Theatre and what priority does this project have to you?

Yes. Significant.

8. What is one specific process or decision of the last council that you disagreed with, and what specifically would you have done differently on this file?

Several of the high rises are either too tall or in the wrong location. I voted against several but was often alone in my stance.

9. What are your 3 main reasons for running for Mayor or Council?

I love Kelowna, I believe I represent the average voice, I want to build a safe and healthy city. There are a couple of key projects unfolding over the next two or three years and I want to be a part of that process.

10. Do you believe that residents associations should play a bigger role development and planning within their areas, should their voices be given more value?

Their voices have value to me. I believe they should be in an advisory role and their knowledge listened to seriously.

11. URBA and possibly the Downtown Kelowna Association receive funding from the City and are often called on to speak as stakeholders for an area. Do you feel that Neighborhood/Sector Residents Associations should have a valued voice equal to the business association voice?

12. The residents' associations would not want to be paid for by the city because their voices need to be kept separate and responsive to residents' but do you feel small grants from the City could be allotted to keep the voices of citizens in neighborhoods heard?

That's possible. I would have to think about it more.

13. If elected, how would you work to have resident's associations voices involved at the beginning of planning and development in their areas rather than an after thought when the planning is already well on its way to being completed?

Again, I believe in quarterly meetings. Public hearings are also an opportunity. Council often has not seen or heard much about a development until it comes before us then.

14. If elected, would you look at why so many variances are made after the initial development approval where neighbors have some input? Variance which can change the whole character of the initial proposal are approved without further resident/neighbor input. For example: Neptune/Mercury Road was to have a development of townhouses to be owned by purchasers which close neighbors agreed with so didn't present anything to Council.

After approval the developer changed this to be a rental development where tenants do not own the property and possibly will not have the same initiative to look after the property.

I often take issue with variances and will continue to do so.

15. If you are elected, how would you address that development permits which include zoning changes are then allowed to sit idle sometimes for years until the property is sold, based on that change to zoning, with a totally different developer/development than what caused a zoning change?

We can't dictate what a property owner does in that scenario. A lot of what we do or how we do it is dictated by the municipal act under the power of the Provincial government.

16. If Kelowna does not build for 40,000 people who want to come here by 2040 what do you think those people will do? Move to a different city? Become homeless?

I have no idea. *We cannot put up a gate to stop people from coming here nor do I think we want to.*

17. How would Kelowna be run differently and look if we were not focused on building for the multitude of people who want to move here, and instead built well planned affordable housing and neighborhoods for those who are already here?

Not sure if this is suppose to be a question or simply an open-ended comment.

18. What do you think Kelowna would be like if we planned affordable neighborhoods with as much care as we plan our more expensive neighborhoods?

See above

19. Our latest OCO (2040) has increased the heights for many areas, but developers still want to build higher. What do you believe is important for assessing increased building heights? Should residents in an area be given a chance to speak to major variance changes when they are presented to Council?

I need to hear the developer justify the increase. I often ask that.

Chance to speak? Yes.

20. If elected, do you plan to bring more and diverse industry or manufacturing to our area where citizens can learn and progress from a ground level job to a well-paying job through education and work experience? (At this point, many of the people working in the service industry and at ground level jobs may have to work 3 jobs to even survive and there is no real opportunity to advance in those jobs.)

Yes diversity is key, so is light, clean technology.

21. If you witnessed an incident of bullying, intimidation, or discrimination against another Council member, would you be willing to act as witness for that Council member?

Of course. I have already and will again.