

Elaine McMurray 2022 Mayor/Council Candidate Questionnaire

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?

Answer: There needs to be equitable distribution in all neighborhoods

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

Answer: Yes absolutely.

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?

Answer: There needs to be community consultation, in this case the decision was made by the Provincial Government with likely no discussion with the city. The landlord is a private landlord so no official notification would be required but would think for the safety of the community there would be consultation.

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?

Answer: I would have an agenda item perhaps every second meeting called neighbourhood concerns, at that time any resident would be given the opportunity to speak without prior notification to council.

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?

Answer: Perhaps, but vigilantes often evolve through group discussion. I would encourage neighbourhood associations to be eyes and ears and then report events to the authorities.

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)?

Answer: More frequent foot/bike patrols, more secure housing for those who require extensive monitoring.

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

Answer: Only if the funds are from the public no tax dollars low to medium priority for me.

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?

Answer: The most recent is the new hotel at the foot of Queensway. I would have voted no and I would have lobbied co-councillors to vote no, but I was not a councillor.

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

Answer: 1. To replace old and tired group of people who don't even know why they are voting for a lot of the time. The city staff stand up, present and then they vote, not even any discussion. 2. To work with community groups to create communities designed by residents. 3. To advocate with all levels of government for adequate safe and affordable social housing.

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?

Answer: Absolutely yes. However, if we do then residents need to participate. Recently I participated in a safety study which was publicized and only 10 citizens replied, very sad.

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?

Answer: Yes and if one is funded all then should be funded, or none, but all equal.

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?

Answer: Yes and the grants are not tied to specific topics.

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?

Answer: When an idea is hatched all stakeholder groups need to be notified at the beginning, residents associations would be the best way or if a major project then perhaps a neighbourhood mail out.

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.

Answer: If it required a variance then yes, but to change from owned to rental is not a variance, this is the developers private concern.

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?

Answer: Development permits need to be reviewed annually and not automatically renewed, a new application should be required so expiry date is essential.

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?

Answer: I think people will come regardless, what will happen is beyond my imagination.

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?

Answer: Unless we lock the gates we cannot stop people from coming here. This is a beautiful city with lots of jobs and opportunities, lets keep it great.

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?

Answer: It would be kinder more benevolent place to call home no matter what your address was.

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?

Answer: The need to build smart, not necessarily higher, we also need to consider the infrastructure needs such as water, etc. For this level of density, yes there should be open forum discussions.

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.)

Answer: We can invite businesses as suggested however businesses can not be made to come here, tax incentives, better transit, improved community safety will attract good businesses.

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?

Answer: Absolutely