

2022 Mayor/Council Candidate Questionnaire – Mohini Singh

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?

I understand this means all sectors of our city have affordable and permanent rental stock. If that is the question, I agree it should be spread across the community. That creates for a healthy community with no divisions based on economic status.

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

yes

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?

The province should advise the area and the business community of the changes. As well inform the community of what security and safety measures are going to be implemented. That gives the community a sense of safety and knowledge that the community will be well taken care of.

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?

You still have access to city council to express your opinion at public hearings on the individual items being discussed. As well the 8 city councilors and the mayor are available to discuss your individual concerns all you have to do is call them.

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. Taking responsibility for your community is different from lashing out and fighting back. Taking responsibility is being pro-active, vigilantism is anger and frustration coming out at other people or establishments. One is responsible the other irresponsible.

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)?

The three levels of government need to work with each other to take a coordinated approach. Safety can have national or provincial links. The intelligence needed is essential to combat the problem.

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

Yes I do. However currently there are several competing interests so I have to say I would like to first deal with issues that are important for our citizens. We heard about quality of life being very important for our citizens. We need to protect those services and areas for our tax paying public.

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?

If there is anything I disagree with I voice my concern and vote accordingly.

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

- We are experiencing tremendous growth and we need seasoned experienced councilors.
- I feel I have a finger on the pulse of the community and respond to the needs of the community.
- Finally I strongly believe my life's experience adds a strong voice to the council table. I bring a wealth of experience and knowledge to the table. I know I can make a positive difference to the lives of residents in Kelowna.

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?

Residents do get to voice their opinions through public hearings. Their elected representatives are also their connection to the city and if they have any issues residents should reach out to them.

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?

Residents associations represent the voice of the people who live in the community. The associations should create a relationship with their elected officials and reach out to them to voice their concerns. Their opinion is in itself of great value and can help improve our city and its services.

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 was not an easy decision because that would be valuable tax payer dollars being used. I would support community grants to help with family days and other community events organized by the residents association for the greater good of the community.

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 afterthought when the planning is already well on its way to being completed?

I have been and remain open to talking to community associations. I want to hear their concerns and see how their voices can be heard from the onset together we can make changes.

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.

Variances are granted in many cases when the developer is giving something back to the city and our citizens. Certainly moving forward we have must ensure those variances do not negatively impact the neighbourhood.

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?

If a project is left sitting on the shelf for a long time, I could require another review. As over the years rules change, environmental regulations change and everything shouldn't be grandfathered especially if it has a negative impact on the community.

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?

Hard to say, homeless maybe not move to another city possibly but since we know the public wants to move here we need to prepare accordingly.

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?

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?

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?

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 it is important to bring well paying jobs to our area, but not at the cost of destroying our environment. We need to have sections where we can locate commercial and industrial operations. The operations need to be close to roads, away from residences or sensitive wetlands.

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?

Yes