



CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES 2018

The Bend Neighborhood Coalition asked the candidates for City Council and Mayor to address several issues affecting neighborhood livability. We said we would circulate their answers, as written, to our members and other interested citizens. Here are the responses from one candidate.

.....

1) **Name:** Michael R. Hughes

2) **What do you see as the main threats to the livability of Bend's neighborhoods as the City grows?**

The dangers to life and property and the pollution caused by wildfires.

3) **What changes in City policies do you support to address those threats?**

The city should readdress their fire prevention and preparedness strategies. The city should assess its current fireworks policies to see they adequately prevent fires. The city should also work with other impacted cities, the state and federal governments to help improve forest health and prevent large wildfires in the future.

Bend faces different circumstances than Portland and other cities in the valley because of these wildfire threats. Thus, the growth in Bend needs to be done with these unique threats in mind. I would support working the develop a strategy that creates wildfire buffer zones at the edges of the UGB.

4) **On which of these issues do you expect to take a leadership role on Council.**

I would try to lead the discussion on the issue of wildfire prevention and being prepared for a wildfire emergency.

5) **Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with the following:**

a) Establishing parking districts in areas where nearby uses create excessive demand by non-residents

No opinion

b) Creating neighborhood compatibility zones to buffer residential areas from the offsite impacts of adjoining commercial and mixed use areas (through a step-down in permitted uses)

Agree strongly

c) Establishing a university district to concentrate campus-related development in adjoining mixed use zones, while protecting the character of nearby residential neighborhoods

Agree strongly

- d) Terminating the ability to transfer non-conforming short-term rental permits on sale of the property
Disagree somewhat
- e) Planning for one or more entertainment districts where outdoor amplified music and late-night entertainment is concentrated and allowed to operate under more relaxed guidelines
Agree Somewhat
- f) Developing code regulating events on private property (e.g., duration, frequency, proximity to other uses, requirements for parking, public safety, etc.)
Agree Somewhat
- g) Reducing decibel levels in the noise ordinance to more closely match other cities
No opinion
- h) Adopting an occupancy limit or high occupancy permit as a means of avoiding single family homes being used as rooming houses or stealth dorms
Disagree somewhat

6) How can the impacts of tourism be mitigated to protect the quality of life for Bend's residents?

Tourism brings in revenue that generally does mitigate some of the impacts. Perhaps the city could explore ways to reduce tourist related automobile travel. A completed bike and pedestrian only corridor connecting the Old Mill to the downtown could be one solution. Promoting the use of more tram rides by area hotels would be another potential solution. The city could consider designating several tram only parking and loading areas in the downtown, Old Mill and other commercial districts.

7) Do you believe the STR code passed in 2015 has successfully curbed the loss of inventory of residential homes to tourist use? What improvements to that code would you support?

No. I am currently studying this portion of the code to determine what changes are needed.

8) What changes to the role of the elected mayor should be made to better address the City's needs?

I think we need to see how the new position actually plays out within the current structure of the council. The mayor should be looking at the interest of the city as a whole and should be able to listen to the diverse opinions of all the citizens. The mayor needs to be able to understand all these different factors so as to help build consensus and move the city forward in a unified way.