

READER



CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE 2023

Compiled by Zach Hagadone, Soncirey Mitchell and Ben Olson

1. Why are you running for mayor?

2. What would be your top three priorities if elected?

3. What do you see as the No. 1 challenge facing Sandpoint, and how do you propose to address it?

4. It's no secret that many people in the community feel City Hall is disconnected from what actually affects residents and have doubts about the equitable stewardship of their town on a number of fronts. If elected, how will you speak to these concerns and chart a path forward that a majority of citizens feel is in their best interests?

Sandpoint City Council

Pam Duquette



Age: 74

Birthplace and residence: Florida/Sandpoint

How many years lived in Bonner Co.: 40

Past/current government service (if applicable): retired public educator

Profession: retired reforestation contractor, former Schweitzer Mountain employee, current volunteer with various conservation groups, KRFY events, Idaho Trails Association, Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society Education Committee and Idaho Conservation League water quality monitoring program

Education: general/special K-8 education degrees with a Gifted and Talented endorsement, University of Idaho-Coeur d'Alene

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1. I am seeking a seat on Sandpoint's City Council to help shape the future of our much-loved town that's suffering growing pains. I say "Keep Sandpoint Real," in my desire to retain our unique identity and character with sustainable growth reflecting that. We need to remember why most of us are here: to enjoy our natural resources that we need to keep healthy. I believe I can lend qualities and experiences to the team adding a diversity that reflects our community. Hearing too many times, "If you want to help, run for office," I am happily doing just that.

2. a. Establish and initiate plans for real community input and involvement on issues we face, from notifications to hands-on workshops.

b. With public/private collaboration develop a plan for achievable/affordable housing for all. These options must protect and enhance existing neighborhoods. We need sustainable development preserving our natural resources. I am researching solutions implemented by other similar communities, near and far. We can work together to find remedies.

c. Creative budgeting is needed to maintain and improve our infrastructure, which includes safe sidewalks and bike paths. We need to reroute trucks and rapid traffic from neighborhoods, utilizing transit options.

3. Our historic rate of growth has taxed our infrastructures, housing and wellbeing. We need to be diligent in our planning and zoning for the future. We can recruit more industry, commercial and local businesses to lessen our reliance on a tourist economy. Transit options can help alleviate unsafe travel around town and any parking issues. If we work through a city housing authority and/or other options, we can utilize deed restriction possibilities and research/share successful ideas found in similar communities. Once we have a well thought out, collaborative comprehensive plan we should stick to it.

4. I continuously speak to this with residents as I introduce myself, share my thoughts and reasons for seeking a City Council seat and

ask of their concerns. I feel active listening is key. My experience is unsatisfactory in getting acknowledgement/responses from the councilors and mayor.

We need to implement a myriad of ways to notify residents of upcoming planning, meetings and projects that affect us all. Let's have "real" hands-on workshops and reinstitute advisory committees. What if each councilor met with subsets of community members, to actually discuss issues, and bring these discussions back to the administration and council?