



LOOKOUT

Phoenix Mountains Preservation Council, Inc.
P.O. Box 26121, Phoenix, AZ 85068-6121

Dear Members,

This summer a large number of candidates are running for district representation on the Phoenix City Council. To better understand how candidates would address issues important to PMPC members a letter was sent with three questions to each one, including the position of mayor.

In this effort the PMPC task force learned three points. First, at the recent forums many candidates have expressed a 'love' for the Preserves and South Mountain Park. Second, most candidates did not return answers to the PMPC questionnaire. One candidate explained after a forum that she received many Q&A's from groups - too many to answer. The last point was that a question like the Phoenix Sonoran Preserve Edge Guidelines being adopted city wide is too complex for a candidate to define a policy now. This comment, by a new candidate, is one side of the coin. The other side, is that questions covering the ongoing issues affecting the preserves were not responded to at all by the current Council members or Mayor.

Questions asked were:

1.) Do you support the South Mountain Freeway proposed alignment using Pecos Road and cutting through South Mountain?* If you oppose this alignment what will you do?

2.) Our concern is that the city budget does not cover the long-term funding for the maintenance of the Preserve system**. This deficiency will only get worse with the addition of the Sonoran Preserve. What do you propose to do to improve this situation?

3.) The city has developed the innovative Sonoran Preserve Edge Guidelines, but has not yet extended the guidelines city wide. Also, a city wide land use policy for development adjacent to the Preserves is needed. What do you propose to do to accomplish these two policies?

*Similar question asked at District 7 Forum. **District 3 Forum.

WE APPRECIATE the candidates who took the time to answer questions important to the Phoenix Mountain Preserves, South Mountain, and the Phoenix Sonoran Preserve.

Also you'll see notes Tice Supplee aided covering the District 1 Forum where candidates discussed the plan for a freeway to be built through South Mountain Park.

Plus, notes from Craig Weaver cover a brief question at the District 3 Forum.

RESPONSE to PMPC Letter & Questions

Mayor

P. Gordon _____ No
S. Lory _____ Yes

District 1

J. Humphrey _____ No
S. O'Connell _____ Yes
L. Poll _____ No
T. Williams _____ No

District 3

J. Altmann _____ No
M. Baier _____ No
J. Iannuzo _____ No
J. Mapstead _____ No
**question at forum.

District 5

C. Mattox _____ No

District 7

A. Harding _____ No
R.A. Marston _____ No
M. Nowakowski _____ Yes
L. Pastor _____ No
*question at forum.

Mark Your Calendar

PHOENIX OUTDOOR RECREATION FESTIVAL

The Phoenix Mountain Preserve and South Mountain are becoming increasingly popular as possible venues for organized special events. As Phoenix population grows the size of these events can place pressures on the natural habitats and wildlife of the preserve.

Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department plans to have 15 public forums to hear from the citizens of Phoenix about the preserve and mountain parks and possibly develop guidelines for use of the preserve system for special events. Details when known will be posted on the PMPC website.

Celebrate the great Phoenix Outdoors!

Sunday, October 28th

8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**South Mountain Park
Activity Complex
10919 South Central Avenue**

The purpose of the event is to raise awareness of Arizona's natural resources, promote stewardship in our public lands, encourage healthy and nutritious choices, and provide a free fun outdoor event designed for the entire family!

DISTRICT 1

LOOKOUT

Mr. Stacey O'Connell

1.) Opposed to "...cutting into South Mountain Preserve." He supports a "freeway system that lies between Estrella Mountain and South Mountain". "A freeway system through this area is needed.....however it is more cost effective to use the flat lands...between the two mountain ranges, than cut into South Mountain and build bridges and unearth large amounts of desert and mountain".

2.) Supports care of Preserves. "If the city has committed to these Preserves in its past, it must commit to them for the future". Mr. O'Connell wrote "If there is a need for budget expansion in this area, I would support it". He added, "ensuring a desert ecology is maintained in our Preserve areas is key to managing future growth for decades to come".

3.) On the Edge Guidelines Mr. O'Connell wrote, "....will need more information on this question and will be prepared to discuss it after the City Council Elections".

DISTRICT 7

Mr. Michael Nowakowski

1.) Mr. Nowakowski wrote, "I am opposed to cutting through South Mountain to extend the freeway along side Pecos Road. This is simply the result of bad planning on the part of the City, State and County. I will work with all levels of government to change the alignment, and I will assist the community in voicing our collective opposition to ruining a portion of the largest municipal park in the nation."

2.) For long-term care he wrote, "the City needs to look at ways to allocate more funding to the maintenance of the Preserve system. I am endorsed by the Sierra Club because environmental leaders trust me to protect our environment and our unique ecological heritage. At City Hall, I will fight for more funding for Preserve maintenance".

3.) On the Edge Guidelines Mr. Nowakowski wrote, "We need to keep Preserves natural and untouched by new development. I will support a city wide land use policy for development adjacent to the preserve. I will engage the community in building support for these policies, and will be their strongest advocate on the Phoenix City Council.

Tice Supplee's notes cover **DISTRICT 7 FORUM**. The answers were given to the question about support of protection of the Phoenix Mountain Preserves and how they will ensure that density transfers that protect the perimeters of the preserves are retained.

All the candidates answered **"Yes" to protecting the Mountain Preserves**. Additional responses:

Art Harding said he would follow the Village Plans and would not allow rezoning that violate Village Planning.

Mike Nowakowski said he would follow the existing Village Plan open space overlays. Would not allow special interests to gain amendments. Also he said, it is important to retain rural character of Laveen as a representation of the agricultural heritage of Phoenix and South Mountain needs to be protected from encroachments, including the freeway. He is endorsed by the Sierra Club.

Ruth Ann Marston: Supports expansion of the mountain preserves. She believes decision making should be transparent and the public should be aware of pre-meetings. She believes Proposition 207 should be amended to allow for historic preservation, parks and open space.

Laura Pastor: She supports the protection of the mountain preserves and believes that the Village Plans should be followed. She believes proposition 207 should be modified to allow for historic preservation, parks and open space.

(more)

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MAYOR CANDIDATE

Mr. Steve Lory

1.) Opposed to damage to South Mountain. Mr. Lory wrote, “The South Mountain Freeway, on the Pecos alignment, is not a good alternative. It would harm South Mountain and force many homes and churches to be removed. My plan is to find good alternatives along with the State Transportation authorities.”

2.) On maintenance he wrote, “There are many ways to fund the maintenance of the Preserve. The City needs to take an active role in raising funds even if it is not from the budget...for instance the Mayor could help other fund raising initiatives. An example of what a Mayor could do is what Mr. Gordon is now doing for the City Of New Orleans. Instead of “adopting” part of New Orleans the Mayor could use his energy for the Preserves and other *local* places of importance!”

3.) On the Edge Guidelines Mr. Lory wrote that he “would be very interested in working with your organization on these issues. I do agree that we need guidelines for development. I am a Phoenix native. We are not too happy to look up at our Mountains, that were once pristine, only to see them scarred more and more as the years go by.”

DISTRICT 3 Forum

A submitted question was asked at the end of the forum. It asked candidates what they would do to protect the Preserves over the long-term. Only brief answers were given by candidates. All candidates, Jon Altmann, Maria Baier, James Iannuzo, and Jim Mapstead expressed a ‘love’ for the Preserves.

Jon Altmann said the Preserves are a “treasure” and after the forum he discussed the problem of the freeway damaging South Mountain. He said, he would try to use his experience living in Northern Arizona to work with the Gila River Indian Community on a mutually beneficial route for the freeway that avoids South Mountain.

Maria Baier said she lives near a Preserve, has working experiences (example Arizona Preserve Initiative) that relates directly to Preserves and she supports long-term funding.

James Iannuzo feels a good job [of protection] is occurring.

Jim Mapstead appreciates the openness and the value of Mountain Preserves for citizens. He favors reducing developer effects on Preserves.