



Candidate Questionnaire for Whitewater Municipal Election
April 4, 2017
Aldermanic District 1 - Carol McCormick

Q1. What motivates you to want to become or seek another term as a Common Council member?

I've been approached to "fix the lake", "get us a grocery store on the East Side", "fix our street" enough times that I thought maybe this is a good time to throw my hat into the ring again. I had run for Council many years ago, but did not succeed. I have since then gained much knowledge about our City and some of the ways it works. With age comes wisdom!

Q2. Which aspects of your background make you suitable for this position?

With 32 years of teaching under my belt, I think I can easily interact with people. I feel being approachable is the way you can have your constituents feel comfortable about voicing their concerns.

I also have devoted much time to issues with our lakes. I headed an ad hoc lake committee several years ago and have attended workshops, meetings, and seminars on lake issues. I have networked with a number of local lake associations and have gotten great feedback on what we can do with our lakes.

Educationally, I have both a bachelor's and master's degrees from UW-Whitewater in math and science. I also have many post-graduate credits in the business field including accounting and business management skills.

Q3. Do I think that the Food Pantry, the Clothes Closet, and the Bethel House should be consolidated in one physical location?

That's a tough question to answer. I think that would be an issue that the people who are being serviced by these organizations should determine. I would venture a guess that the people in these situations have not chosen this fate. By placing them all in one physical location might put a stigma on the people using these services and this should not be the case!

Q4. There seems to be consensus that citizens of Whitewater would like a grocery store. Specifically how would you go about making that happen?

Consensus is putting it mildly! The main talk in town centers around getting an independent grocery store into Whitewater. To start, we must arm the search committee with how much this means to our community. This could be in the way of a grass-roots, signature signing petition by our residents. Whether or not that would be a game changer remains to be seen, but I think putting a personal stamp on the need might give it some weight to potential investors. Whitewater deserves better!

Q5. Occasions like St. Patrick's Day and Spring Splash can negatively impact the community. Do you feel that it is appropriate for the city to be involved in regulating such events, and, if so how?

St. Patrick's Day celebrations have been around since I went to college here and before. There is really no regulating this event by the city. The city's responsibility is to make sure that both participants and residents

are safe and following the legal guidelines that we have in place. The same thing is true of Spring Splash. I think the more we meddle into this events, the more resentment is created.

Q6. What are the top two or three economic development priorities that you will champion as a member of the Common Council?

I am not sure if bringing an independent grocery store is considered an economic development, but I certainly would champion that! I would like to see strong development in the technology field which would draw students of UW-W to continue to work and live in the city after graduation. UW-W has a nationally recognized programs in both technology and business (and athletics!) and would be a plus to keep them in the area. Also, developing both the eastern and western corridors to welcome travelers to Whitewater would be a project I would like to prioritize. I further think that the infrastructure on the Eastside needs to be updated. This would include not only street reconstruction, but also water and sewer laterals.

Q7. As University students move into available housing rentals in Whitewater, there is a chilling effect on single-family housing. What can be done to encourage more development of single-family homes and therefore an increase in that population?

Any city that has a university within it's city limits faces unique challenges. You basically have a city within a city which needs to cooperate in tandem. As the local population ages out and leaves vacancies in neighborhoods, it is likely that they will be sold and possibly become student rentals. However, some of the recent zoning laws have restricted some of these neighborhoods. As a student landlord myself, we have most of our rental units outside of campus, integrated into neighborhoods and have not had many repercussions because of it. If you want to see more development of single-family homes, we must provide good paying jobs to make it affordable and desirable to build and stay here. And that brings us back to Q6.

Q8. Whitewater used to have both regular bus service and train service. For some decades it has not had either and the most recent experiment with a bus did not last long. Do you think that it is important to look for alternative to automobiles for transportation to any distance outside of town and back?

Personally, I don't think it should be a priority for the city. If it has failed in the past, that should be an indicator that it something we simply do not need. The current transportation means within the city are sufficient as of now.

Q9. It has been difficult to get citizens to participate in local government by running for Common Council or joining City boards and commissions. Why do you think this is true and how would you encourage others to become actively involved?

First, it is a time commitment. Lots of people are working later in life to support retirement incomes and just don't have much left in the tank to take on these positions. Since I am retired, I now have the time to devote to serving on Council. Second, you have to put yourself out there and speak to those issues that concern you and your constituents. That is a lot of responsibility that many do not want to take on. Third, I would encourage citizens to join some of these sub-committees. They are small and give a great amount of inside information about the city and it's workings. For the several I have attended, I have learned a lot.

Q10. Is there something that the City of Whitewater is not presently doing that you believe will significantly improve the quality of life and strengthen the local economy? What is that and why do you believe it to be important?

We are very fortunate to have two bodies of water located within the city limits. Many cities across the state are not as fortunate. Water draws people and people strengthen the local economy whether it be just using the lakes or using the facilities near them (i.e. restaurants, shopping, etc).

For years they have been neglected and we are now seeing the aftermath of that neglect. There recently has been some discussion about dredging, but with today's costs the amount is huge. This is where I feel the city should be seriously discussing a city-wide lake association which may ultimately fund some of these larger projects.

Our city was founded around the industry which required these waters and that legacy should continue. Citizens who have lived here for a good share of their lives have childhood memories of what they used to be.