

**Citizens for a Fair Ferndale
Candidates Forum
Sunday, October 23, 2011
1:00pm - 3:00pm
Ferndale Public Library**

Mayoral Candidate Questionnaire

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Citizens for a Fair Ferndale

1. Why did you decide to run for Mayor/Council?

Many residents had gone to council, at first each on their own, about the excessive noise from certain bars, and later were joined by over 200 who signed a petition, yet 2 years passed before council modified the ordinance. We need a more responsive council.

2. What is your vision for Ferndale? Over the next four years? Over the next ten years?

A dialogue between residents, businesses and government, exchanging information about goals, needs and concerns, to lead to a cohesiveness and balance between these three parts of our community. Sustainability can be gained by more offices for job and their employees to eat in and shop our downtown with stores having everyday items for residents, too. We can have a quieter vibrancy, mass transit for more people with fewer cars and less cost. A teen center is long overdue.

3. What two (2) things are you going to do that will bring your vision to reality?

My website will remain up after the election, disseminating information as I learn it from residents and businesses and government. I will meet with existing business and neighborhood groups to learn their needs and to help others to be established.

4. Of all the issues facing Ferndale, what two (2) would you give top priority and why?

First, finances is the top by far—I will do everything I can to help our city government avoid going to the higher millage figure that was kept in reserve. Secondly, there is much good information for and from the community that is not being disseminated, so there is unnecessary mistrust and suspicion.

5. Ferndale prides itself on an active citizenry.

A) What two (2) things would you tell someone who "just wanted to help", or who "just wanted to get involved"? Join a city board or commission, which includes a DDA committee. Volunteer at one of the many events and activities that goes on in Ferndale.

B) Please list and briefly describe three (3) resources (print, electronic, or otherwise) that residents who want to get involved should go to for ideas, background, facts or figures. My website; the city website, which will link to the DDA website and others; so many of our citizens watch WFRN-TV cable so its calendar needs to become more used.

6. How do you see the council and other city leaders continuing and improving communication between Ferndale and its neighbor cities?

The Mayor of Hazel Park visits our meetings; we should return the favor. A mini-summit, to exchange solutions to the common problems we face and further explore cooperation would be helpful.

7. Please explain the importance of the city's Master Plan. Is it still relevant in this economic climate? When and how should it be reviewed?

The Master Plan is a thoughtful visioning statement to give the city direction. By law, it is to be reviewed every 5 years, so 2012 is the next year for it to be reviewed. Much of it still seems to be relevant despite the economic climate. However, trends are changing more than anticipated.

The next review should include discussions of utilities serving or needing to better serve Ferndale. The city should also have a comprehensive Capital Improvement Plan for city buildings, and performance standard for industry, to include environmental issues such as noise, light, odors, fumes. It clearly showed that our town is short on park area and that has not changed—a stronger plan needs to be made in that area.

There needs to be excitement built around the next review to draw more than “over 10 people” to be part of each session. Fortunately, recent DDA visioning events are drawing significant numbers of residents and business owners—an excellent example to follow.

8. How can the city help residents who are facing foreclosure?

The city can tell them, in every way possible, about County Treasurer Meisner’s program to help those who are facing foreclosure.

9. The state of our schools (perceived or real) is vitally important. What kind of collaboration between the city and the schools do you see happening?

The Ferndale school district gives presentations about current activities and successes; council members can return the gesture, by attending school board meetings and presenting them with what the city is doing in general, and inviting collaboration on projects. The Hazel Park school district should not be neglected as two of its are located in Ferndale and many Ferndale youth attend Hazel Park schools.

10. Did you support the Headlee Override ballot question that was passed in May of this year? If so, explain, in your view, how this millage positively affected our City. If not, explain, in your view, how this millage has negatively affected our City.

Yes, I voted for it and spoke up at Council about it, based on the fact that this economy has affected all of us—residents, businesses, and government. I was aware that cuts had been made and the budget sessions conveyed just how deep those cuts had been. The city government seemed to breathe a sigh of relief after the millage passed, yet still have a sense of purpose to keep the millage to the lower amount. I am pleased that the “No” millage group has,

for the most part, stayed alive to help us all watch and contribute solutions towards keeping the millage at the lower level.