

Lake Hills Neighborhood Association (LHNA) - Bellevue City Council Candidates Forum

14 September 2017 – 7pm – 8:45pm

The meeting was called to order by LHNA President Mindy Garner.

Mindy talked about the topics for our next meeting, on Thursday, October 12. There will be a discussion about the differences between the LHNA and the EBCC. There will be a debate between Bill Capron and Steve Kasner – the only contested EBCC race. An update on the post-fire Islamic Center rebuild project will be given. Details on the upcoming “Trunk or Treat” event will be presented.

Jeanne Elliott presented the pro statement for the November 7th EBCC ballot measure. Every 4 years, the EBCC must win approval of the voters to continue to exist as a community council. In February, the EBCC passed Resolution 561 to put a measure on the November 7 ballot to have the EBCC continue. Besides Jeanne, Steve Fricke and Lydia White were also on the Pro statement committee. There was no Con position statement written for this ballot measure. Jeanne then read the Pro statement as it will appear on the ballot,

The rest of the meeting was spent on the Bellevue City Council Candidates Forum. The forum began with each candidate being allotted 90 seconds to introduce themselves, and to state what they believe is the most important issue in this race. All 8 candidates attended the forum.

Randy Grein and Conrad Lee for position 2:

Randy is a 30-year resident of East Bellevue and said he believes growth is an issue and a problem, with good and bad parts.

Conrad, on the council for 23 years, stated that he believes survival of EBCC is important as well as other ways to receive input from the residents. Growth is an issue.

Jared Nieuwenhuis and Karol Brown for position 4:

Jared mentioned that this was the largest, best attended candidate forum so far. He is on the LHNA board and has lived in Lake Hills for 17 years. Bellevue and East Bellevue are special and he believes City Hall has gotten away from “the Bellevue Way.” The issues he mentioned are continuing EBCC, and the low-barrier men’s shelter siting, which he said was a decision not conducted in the Bellevue Way and lacked transparency.

Karol stated that traffic and affordable housing are the 2 most important issues.

Janice Zahn and Phillip Yin for position 5:

Janice wants to make sure the voice of the residents is heard before decisions are made on their behalf. She values inclusion, and accountability. She has 23 years of Bellevue community experience.

Phillip stated that he believes the LHNA is the most organized community in Bellevue and maybe even in the state. He is not a polished politician. Believes in hard work and giving back. The issues he sees are managing growth, noise, traffic, and public safety. He sees the Eastgate Shelter as a public safety issue.

Lynne Robinson and Steve Fricke for position 6:

Lynne talked about her city council accomplishments. Did not mention any issues.

Steve has been a resident of East Bellevue since 1998. He cares about the city and East Bellevue, supports the EBCC. The issues he listed are the Eastgate Shelter, the PSE power lines, single family homes, lack of accountability at City Hall. He wants to be an advocate of the neighborhoods.

Then Mindy asked for a show of hands: Do you support the Eastgate site for the Low-Barrier Shelter?

Randy and Karol voted "Yes."

Conrad, Jared, Phillip and Steve voted "No."

Janice and Lynne did not vote either way.

Then Mindy asked a series of prepared questions, and each candidate was given a chance to respond. After that, written questions from the audience were asked.

The forum concluded with each candidate being given 90 seconds for a final statement.