

**Ward 6 Candidate Forum: Friends' Meeting House, 1861 12th St.
Wed., October 25, 2011**

Moderator: Janet Fiero

Ward 6 Candidates: Ed Childers, Shane Stack and Peggy Miller

- I. Question: What made you want to run for City Council?
 - a. Shane: Was asked by a number of council members to consider running. He wants to get Russell St. reconstructed moving along. He would follow the preferred alternative in the Environmental Impact Statement. He believes it is a disservice to bicker when we need to get things done. Would also like to see sidewalks installed for walkers and bikers he now sees walking on the side of the road.
 - b. Peggy: Worried about cleaning up water, worried about global warming, wants to move faster in community renewable resources. She would like to see jobs brought in with food canning and a meat packing, focus on keeping food local, not as worried about sidewalks.
 - c. Ed: This is Ed's 12th year on council. He believes there is still work to be done, believes he knows how to do a good job and has been doing a job. He would like to Russell St. construction get started, they have promised a decision by Halloween with construction starting next year on 3rd St. and wants to find more ways to fund sidewalks.
- II. Question: What experience, knowledge, or perspective do you bring to the table?
 - a. Peggy: She has a foundation in alternative technology, aquifers, community economic development and was training/worked in D.C. for a number of years. Believes you look at all resources and what you have. She is been on Board of Adjustments and other city planning boards. She would like to foster working groups and work more with University.
 - b. Ed: Has a wealth of experience on City Council, has learned a lot about zoning and wants to make Missoula a better place. Ed is president of City Council for last 6 years and is President of League of Cities and Towns.
 - c. Shane: Addresses conflict, has check with MDT legal and would abstain from any conflict of interest votes. Shane works as an engineer for MDT, is a pilot, races triathlons.
- III. Question: View of City Forestry
 - a. Ed: New urban forester, some trails not being watered. Would like to see a 4-wheeler with vat of water to go around and do watering. He feels city is responsible when the plan. There is a problem with boulevard trees because homeowners are supposed to care for but city does do tree trimming.
 - b. Peggy: Problem is that watering goes on to meters and some people cannot afford to water the trees the city plans. City should be responsible. Or idea that if the city covered sidewalks homeowner

could share in other costs. She is worried the city does things piece meal instead of an overall approach.

- c. Shane: Part of city service should be helping people with trees. How to care for and what to grow. In public right-a-ways city should help with pruning, watering, removal and planting.

IV. Question: If elected how would you support LGBT issues?

- a. Peggy: Discrimination shouldn't exist. She believes looking at policies and representation. Set up committees for oversight and establishing ongoing method of people working together, have structure in place to review policy.
- b. Ed: City ordinance includes LGBT now, State legislature tried to overturn it but not able to. City health insurance does not discriminate. City used to have one police officer who worked on those issues and was helpful.
- c. Shane: Has close friends and family who are gay and would support them 100%. He will commit to supporting their interests.

V. Question: Spending of Stimulus

- a. Ed: Supported it 100%, helped with work on N. Higgins, it was intended to create jobs, unfortunately it hasn't been fully allocated yet and should have been more.
- b. Peggy: Quasi support. Would like for it to be used for jobs that will be around longer and for jobs to be brought back to United States. Should be used for food and energy because they are two things we will continue to need.
- c. Shane: Supports with some criteria, problem was that it was not defined how it would be dolled out. Another problem can be that if money needs to be marched it can be more of a burden.

VI. Question: How to decide between needs and wants and how do you execute a plan to accomplish those needs or wants?

- a. Shane: Any elected official should consider wants v. needs when spending tax dollars. Needs are such things and police and fire protection, things every citizen can benefit from. Questions if the baseball stadium was want or need?
- b. Peggy: Believes they can be mingled, in this community wants v. needs are close. How do you bring in jobs? Baseball stadium can bring in jobs and help to market city to new companies. Does not necessarily think sidewalks are a need because she enjoys walking on road.
- c. Ed: Example of fire department; 3 on duty not a necessary but it makes the city safer to have 3, as does having firefighters respond to medical emergencies.

VII. Question: Is there any legislature that you are interested in seeing city enact, repeal, and/or revise?

- a. Ed: Animal ordinance, law about leases on conservation land, bees and goats on table. In the state legislature would like to see a local option income tax, raise gas tax which hasn't been raised since 1993.

- b. Peggy: Agrees with gas tax. Would like to see a food packing and canning production created. Starting an urban 4-h club which other communities have done.
 - c. Shane: Government Land Offices, no roads built but have easements, but only motorized vehicles. He would like to see those easements to allow non-motorized vehicles for recreation such as bike path. A resort tax is also a possibility to help funding, looked at St. Regis as example.
- VIII. Question: Why are you not starting with Russell St. Bridge since it most important?
- a. Peggy: She would start with the Russell St. bridge but we are starting at 3rd because of intersection. Bridge has less political payoff. Does think 3+ lanes a good idea and would have liked to have seen a rotary.
 - b. Shane: 3rd st. is locally funded and there are no acquisitions needed, huge design issue and not a simple solution. They will in the design process start at the same time just won't be visible.
 - c. Ed: Have 6 million from Baucus, EIS needed to get completed. 1/3 of cost on 3rd will be from property owners and it will be expensive for them.
- IX. Question: What is Ward 6's challenges and assets?
- a. Shane: funding for infrastructure is a challenge, lighting and fire hydrants. How do you fund it fairly when not as wealth of a neighborhood.
 - b. Ed: Set up well for fire hydrants, asset is always the people. Neighborhood council helped get sidewalks and Milwaukee trail. It is a well set up neighborhood with a grid system.
 - c. Peggy: Assets are the people. Mostly working class, blue collar neighborhood, has been hit hard by lack of jobs, income is low, city sometimes shoulders the problems.
- X. Closing:
- a. Ed: It has been a great opportunity to serve. Important initiatives at city to create jobs, such as buying the water company and that it should be publically owned. Ballpark will now be entirely public owned. Fire trucks and police important and will be having lunch with the university soon. Thinks city is in good shape.
 - b. Peggy: need to support local farmers and keep money here. Would support purchase of city water. Road maintenance should also be used for water leaks and sidewalks; we can do a better job at efficiency and utilizing teams.
 - c. Shane: It has been a great experience to run and has learned a lot by knocking doors. As ward 6 simple goals it to be positive and work for ward 6.