

Michelle Hillaby

Tell us about yourself

How long have you lived in this area? **6 years**

Do you live within Nelson City Limits or in Nelson's service area? **Lower Fairview the banana belt of Nelson**

Present and previous employment. **High school science teacher five years and dental sales rep for 16**

City Committees

other boards and committees **Nelson Minor Hockey**

What's unique about you that you feel you can offer to the City? **I don't think I'm unique, but I am keen, hard working, open-minded and a team player**

New to council:

What decisions did the last council make that you would not have supported? What decisions did the last council make that you would support?

I would not limit baseball at Lion's Park. Lion's Park has been a ball diamond for over 60 years. If you don't want baseball to be played in your neighborhood don't buy a house by a ball diamond. There is a lot of room for other community users to use the diamond at the same time as the baseball kids.

Committees

Nelson has a system of committees. How important are these committees to our city? Anything you would do to increase the efficiency and use of the committees?

From what I'm hearing we from a lot of committees and have a lot of meetings but then we don't listen to the recommendations of the committee. This is frustrating for everyone involved and makes it harder to get people to participate the next time.

What are the Council's and the Mayor's responsibility to its committees? What are the committees responsibilities to council?

Council needs to really listen to the committees recommendations. The committees must take their role seriously and put a lot of thought and effort into the topic they are working on.

Street culture

Some people have been concerned about Nelson's street culture, pan handlers and people without homes. Does our City Government have any role to play in addressing these concerns? **The city government**

does have a role in addressing these concerns. We can create bylaws the keep the aggressive panhandlers off of the sidewalks in our downtown core. Many of the aggressive panhandlers come here for the summer. They know Nelson will feed them and the tourists will give them money. Nelson Cares is building a new facility now. We have our liaison worker and other provincial programs in place. We will always strive to do better and end homelessness.

Business community

Some of our Nelson business owners have felt they have not been consulted appropriately about issues that affect them. What would you do to mitigate that feeling?

Talk to business owners. Listen to them. Seems obvious.

The downtown business community suffers from such issues as limited parking, increased parking rates, competition from online shopping and the mall. What actions would you take to let the downtown business community know you are pro local business? **Cleaning up the downtown is something we can control, we can't control online shopping. A clean, inviting and safe downtown will bring locals and tourists to our shopping district. Stopping the aggressive panhandlers who are scaring away shoppers and the buskers will help local business. We need to recognize that people come to Nelson because of our unique shops. Baker Street is as much of a draw as our beautiful scenery.**

Housing

Some businesses in the service industry are concerned about the lack of affordable housing for their workers. Can the City do anything to help provide worker's housing?

Selkirk College has many students who need accommodation. This has put further demand on our already scarce available housing. Can the City do anything to help provide student housing? **This is such a tough issue and so important to all who live in Nelson. If there are incentives we can offer builders to build more reasonable housing**

for people trying to get into the housing market. If Selkirk is interested in building student housing the city can work with bylaws and zoning to make that happen. If people think the city should start building rent controlled apartments then that is going to take many discussions and provincial funding. It directly affects all who live in Nelson but is such an impossible thing for the city to control.

Services

Does Nelson feel old and dated? Are you interested in improving the look and feel of our community? **Nelson just needs some TLC. some basic maintenance; grass cut, flowers planted, incentives for business owners to remove moldy awnings and improve front facade, fix up the Welcome to Nelson sign,**

Money no object, what recreational and/or cultural facilities would you like to see here? **massive sports complex; indoor soccer, arena, track, etc; cottonwood park stage and market facilities, walking bridge over the tracks from the waterfront to Railtown,**

How would you like to see Lakeside Rotary Park and Nelson's other parks improved? **stage for outdoor music.**

Would you do anything to help make Nelson more bicycle friendly and what would you do? Bike lanes? **As the infrastructure gets replaced and roads are torn up I would love to see more space for bikes. Any space for bikes would be nice.**

Can our public transportation system be improved? How?

The Regional District of Central Kootenay and the City of Nelson

Over the years the **RDCK** and **City** have had conflict over jurisdiction and services such as the Nelson Municipal Library, and Nelson & District Community Complex . These conflicts caused many tough decisions over the years. Is there anything that can be done to encourage better cooperation between the **RDCK** and the **City**? Should we be one Regional District? I do think we should be one large district but I don't see that happening anytime soon. Elect people who are cooperative and want to work together for the betterment of all. It

only takes one ego to derail cooperative talks.

Cannabis

Do you think the current regulations of quantity and location of cannabis retail stores are appropriate? **I think a cannabis business license needs to be more in line with what other businesses are paying. We don't limit the number of coffee shops or restaurants so I don't think we should limit cannabis. The free market will take care of over-supply.**

Climate change

What role does our municipal government have in helping to reduce the risks of local forest fires, floods and other environmental emergencies? **water storage! We cannot control the private land all around us but we can control our water supply and storage which is the number one asset in fire suppression. I think we need to focus on what we can control while we continue to lobby the provincial government and local land owners to carry out the recommended clearing of undergrowth.**

What can be done to improve the City of Nelson's recycling system? **Educate, educate, educate**

Youth

Youth, while not yet able to vote, will be an important part of future elections. How will you involve youth in understanding and participating in our civic government?

How can the Nelson & District Youth Centre be improved?

Final thoughts

Do you have a pet project you would you like to see happen in the next two years? **I would like to see us working towards another field at the tenth street campus. The plans were drawn up years ago we just need to start redirecting clean fill up there and working towards**

another ball diamond.

How will you communicate with citizens of Nelson? **social media, in person, e-mail. I'm out and about in the community a lot. I am approachable and think many conversations will happen in the rink, at the diamonds, on Baker Street, in coffee shops etc**

What makes for a happy community?

Is there anything you would do to help the City government be more transparent and responsive to its citizens? **Communication is the key to transparency. The people need to know what is happening and why. People need to know they have been heard.**

Do you see yourself as a leader, or a servant to the community? **This is a great question. In many aspects of my life I would consider myself a leader but in this role I would be a servant. It would be my job to work for the people and do my best to take care of the core services we all want and need. I want to play a role in bringing back our civic pride.**