

Jesse Woodward - City of Nelson Councillor Candidate

Tell us about yourself

How long have you lived in this area? – **I returned to this area in 1999. I grew up on a farm in the Slocan Valley on the 1970's.**

Do you live within Nelson City Limits or in Nelson's service area? – **Nelson Service area at 4 mile.**

Present and previous employment – **Markets & Events Director for the West Kootenay EcoSociety, (Downtown Market, Cottonwood Market, MarketFest events, GardenFest, Winter Craft Fair)**

City Committees – **none at this time, I was on the APC committee for two year**

other boards and committees – **None at this time**

What's unique about you that you feel you can offer to the City? –

-7 + years of experience of front line, on the street organizational management work that included meeting the requirements of hundreds of individual's needs and working with local government and public services on a yearly basis.

-Excellent problem solver, coordinator and mediator who has many years of experience in organizing and managing large groups of people and events.

-A deeply personal dedication to helping make Nelson a safe, livable and thriving city.

Previous Nelson City Councillors:

Tell us about some of the successes that you have championed in your tenure that you are happy about. **Not applicable**

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? **No Comment**

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? **I think committees are an important way that the community can be involved in city decision making processes but they need to be recognized as an auxiliary part of the process and not a final decision making body. That is City Councils job.**

What are the Council's and the Mayor's responsibility to its committees? What are the committees responsibilities to council? **The Mayor and City Council where elected by the people so there responsible is to the people and not to committees. Committees are there to offer second opinion to the Mayor and City Council.**

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? **Yes. The City Government can help to alleviate issue with Nelson street culture by funding support workers and services that help mitigate and work with street culture issues.**

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? **Develop a more robust communication**

department at City Hall that can respond, in a timely fashion, to the public concerns, including the business community concern. These concerns can then be organized and feed to the Mayor and City Council in a more direct way so they can better deal with the current issue at hand.

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? **City Council needs to be pro Nelson, for all people of Nelson. The business community is one part of that mix and a very important part but Council needs to balance the needs of all residents of Nelson including the business community. Parking issues are going to always be a problem because Nelson is a small town with many locals and visitors accessing it. Parking issue could be relived if there were more ways for locals to take transit around and into and out of town. Many local businesses are setting up their own online stores to getting into the world on online shopping.**

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? **Help in developing and funding, along with the local business community, affordable workers housing much like they have in the town of Whistler.**

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? **The City could help in developing a city wide data base and online directory of rooms for rent in people's house. Many people have extra rooms in their home they are not using but it may feel too difficult to try to rent them so the City could develop**

a system where student and house owners with extra rooms could find each other.

Services

Does Nelson feel old and dated? Are you interested in improving the look and feel of our community? **Yes. Nelson could always improve its infrastructure and appearance**

Money no object, what recreational and/or cultural facilities would you like to see here? **A floating stage at Lakeside Park for summer concerts and plays**

How would you like to see Lakeside Rotary Park and Nelson's other parks improved? **I think these facilities have been improved over the last few years and will continue to be so as far as I can tell.**

Would you do anything to help make Nelson more bicycle friendly and what would you do? Bike lanes? **Bike lanes would be very hard to implement due to the small size of our city and the steepness of hills in this town. Maybe a public electric bike renting system might be a good idea in the fashion of the Kootenay Car Share.**

Can our public transportation system be improved? How? **Yes. Smaller buses (vans) that can move people quickly and frequently around the city.**

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? **No Comment. I do not know enough, as of yet, about this**

issue.

Cannabis

Do you think the current regulations of quantity and location of cannabis retail stores are appropriate? **This will all change when Federal legalization takes place on Oct. 17. Many of these shop will close so this may be a moot point.**

Climate change

What role does our municipal government have in helping to reduce the risks of local forest fires, floods and other environmental emergencies? **Thin the forest and reduce the fuel load around Nelson perimeters, continue investing in new sewer drainage systems, have a robust and up to date emergency action plan for city evacuation and have a well-organized emergency management centre.**

What can be done to improve the City of Nelson's recycling system? **Add compost pick up and processing to Nelson recycling system.**

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? **Election education and promotion in elementary and high school schools would be a good start if it is not already happening.**

How can the Nelson & District Youth Centre be improved? **They could have mock election games that help kids get excited and interested about the democratic process.**

Final thoughts

Do you have a pet project you would you like to see happen in the next two years? **Developing an excellent communication strategy and hiring a communication officer at City Hall to be a liaison between the city and the public**

How will you communicate with citizens of Nelson? **Same as above**

What makes for a happy community? **Good communication and response between the public and its elected officials, well managed city works, caring and kind community spirit**

Is there anything you would do to help the City government be more transparent and responsive to its citizens? **Developing an excellent communication strategy and hiring a communication officer at City Hall to be a liaison between the city and the public**

Do you see yourself as a leader, or a servant to the community? **I see myself as a caretaker not a leader or a servant**