

Civic Election 2020 – Candidate Responses

Ward 2- Four Candidates – 2 responded

George Tsiklis- No Response

Stew Fettes:

Question 1. Regina’s heritage includes buildings, landscapes and locations of significant events. Do you have a favourite heritage space in Regina? If yes, what is it and why is it your favourite?

!) My favorite Heritage site is the statue of the Father of Confederation, Sir John A. Macdonald who united Canada as one country, and built a railroad from ocean to ocean.

Question 2. How important is it that the City of Regina continues to identify and designate heritage spaces within our city? Why?

2) It is very important that we keep an eye on the past and identify any worthy project that needs preservation.

Question 3. The Economic Growth Plan was recently released with a goal of Regina becoming Canada’s most vibrant city by 2030. How would you include heritage in the City’s plans to become a vibrant community?

3) Extremely important to add our Heritage sites to the list of the City of Regina assets for interested people visiting our city to view.. This promotes Tourism.

Question 4. The Heritage Inventory Policy identifies heritage properties that support the themes outlined in the “Thematic Framework and Historic Context” document. What improvements would you suggest for this policy?

4) I have not read the document so I am unable to comment on it at this time.

Question 5. There is a redevelopment proposal coming to City Council in early 2021 that will substantially increase density on a single-family residential site by demolishing a major portion of a designated heritage building. The proposal will also alter the character of the heritage neighbourhood and the streetscapes of Albert Street and Hill Avenue. (See <https://www.regina.ca/export/sites/Regina.ca/business-development/land-property-development/.galleries/pdfs/Proposed-Development/Public-Notice-3160-Albert-St.pdf>)

What is your position on this issue? How can the City balance development with the need to preserve designated heritage properties?

5) This needs to be carefully looked at weighing both sides of the argument before a final decision is made. The Regina Taxpayers should be allowed to have some input into this matter.

Question 6. Demolition by neglect, allowing designated heritage properties to deteriorate to the point where they must be torn down, is an issue in our city. What role do you think the City should play in preventing demolition by neglect?

6) If it is considered to be an extremely important heritage site and it has been designated as such, the only alternative to voluntary neglect is for the city to purchase the property from the owner.

Bob Hawkins:

Question 1. Regina's heritage includes buildings, landscapes and locations of significant events. Do you have a favourite heritage space in Regina? If yes, what is it and why is it your favourite?

During my term as councillor for Ward 2, I have fought very hard for the preservation of heritage buildings in the city and for a stronger heritage policy. If reelected, you can count on my continuing support and advocacy for heritage. My current favorite heritage space is the Cook House because that is what is most in need of saving right now. Please share these answers with your membership. I seeking reelection in Ward 2 and believe that my reelection will be critically important for the preservation of the Cook house and so of the heritage of Albert Street from Hill to the bridge as a "grand allee."

Question 2. How important is it that the City of Regina continues to identify and designate heritage spaces within our city? Why?

A city that fails to honour its past has no future. If we tear down our past, what message are we sending to upcoming generations about respect for the heritage that we are currently building. Our job as current stewards of our inheritance is to pass it on to the next generation so that they can build on the sound values that have been put in place by our ancestors and ourselves. That is why heritage is important.

Question 3. The Economic Growth Plan was recently released with a goal of Regina becoming Canada's most vibrant city by 2030. How would you include heritage in the City's plans to become a vibrant community?

Without heritage, Regina will not be a vibrant community. Heritage is what gives a community character and binds it together. Heritage, the preservation of our built past, and the environment, preservation of our natural heritage, are essential for maintaining a vibrant community.

Question 4. The Heritage Inventory Policy identifies heritage properties that support the themes outlined in the "Thematic Framework and Historic Context" document. What improvements would you suggest for this policy?

The key improvement that is required are mechanisms that prevent owners of heritage buildings from allowing their properties to degrade to the point where they can then apply for demolition permits. We also have to find a way to prevent situations in which a building already declared a heritage building is brought back to council for declassification as heritage, for a continuous series of applications which waste the time of citizens, council and city administration. We must make everyone understand that a heritage designation is to be permanent and taken seriously. Finally, heritage designation should apply to both the internal and external elements of the heritage property and not just to the external heritage elements as is the case at present.

Question 5. There is a redevelopment proposal coming to City Council in early 2021 that will substantially increase density on a single-family residential site by demolishing a major portion of a designated heritage building. The proposal will also alter the character of the heritage neighbourhood and the streetscapes of Albert Street and Hill Avenue. (See <https://www.regina.ca/export/sites/Regina.ca/business-development/land-property-development/.galleries/pdfs/Proposed-Development/Public-Notice-3160-Albert-St.pdf>)

What is your position on this issue? How can the City balance development with the need to preserve designated heritage properties?

This question arises out of the situation of the Cook House at the corner of Albert and Hill. There should be no conflict between development and heritage. I say this for two reasons. First, development should take into account the character of the neighborhood. It should not be allowed if what is being proposed is a multi-family development which would destroy the character of a single family neighbourhood. There are lots of forms of development which can take place which does not offend the character of a neighbourhood. Second, with respect to heritage properties, the development, both internal and external of the heritage property should be consistent with the character of the heritage property and should be meant to preserve it.

Question 6. Demolition by neglect, allowing designated heritage properties to deteriorate to the point where they must be torn down, is an issue in our city. What role do you think the City should play in preventing demolition by neglect?

The city, if necessary, through inspections, should prevent a property from being allowed to deteriorate. Other cities have best practices with respect to this that we can learn from.

Birkramjit Singh - No Response