

## **Chamber of Commerce Candidate Questionnaire - Maureen Roberts (Oct. 2017)**

1. The opportunity to give back to my community. That and the fact that I am concerned for the future of our community based on recent spending during the downturn in the economy, cut backs to essential services, and the lack of long term planning.
2. I grew up in a politically active environment; have sat on two civic appointed boards; have volunteered extensively in our community, have taken a leadership and/or management role in all my endeavors; ability to listen, question, and understand; not afraid to make decisions.
3. Strategic priorities are based on the strategic goals. As in any successful business endeavour I will commit to the evaluation of resources, innovation, and thoughtful planning for measurable and realistic results for long term goals.
4. Opportunities for growth begin by ensuring Medicine Hat is a desirable place to live. The draw for major business development begins with providing cost effective: housing, the services provided (schools, safety, recreation, healthcare, transportation, shopping, and accessibility), and an environment of co-operation. My strategy would be to listen, question, learn, and to take into consideration the financial environment.
5. The benefits of Intermunicipal Collaboration are obvious (land use, development, finance and communication) however the framework and mediation process is of some concern with regard to which of the players benefits the most and the amount of time arguments are held in mediation. The need for collaboration in the fringe area is of great importance for all the stakeholders.
6. I am not informed enough on this topic to comment at this time. A guideline of the ratio used by like sized communities should be taken into consideration.
7. The City has done extensive research and invested time and funds to re-imagine our historic core. The City has a specific vision of a stylized neighbourhood with a mix of residential, commercial and interest groups. The City has begun the process in their collaboration with the CCDA, infrastructure upgrades, and streetscape. With current changes to the MGA it could be possible to develop a derelict building Bylaw for vacant non-residential structures. If we want visitors to discover our vibrant core I would like to see encouragement for the development of a "boutique" hotel. As well, an increase in residential occupation would create a viable neighbourhood offering opportunities for small business that fit (eg. a small grocery store, hardware, medical clinic, etc.).
8. The "major investments" stated were the addition to the FLC and the building of the Canalta Centre. These major investments came at a high cost as several neighbourhood recreational opportunities were shut down. In future it would be wise to consider the possibility of multi-use buildings and partnerships to ensure service and occupancy. User fees should not be a deterrent.
9. It was tested and proven that the airport is able to accommodate larger aircraft with the current runway configuration. The only way to improve service and cost is dictated through competition between the airlines. Although Transport Canada holds jurisdiction in the airport zone the possibility of a hotel in the vicinity would be an attractive opportunity to encourage a longer stay.

10. As I understand it, the time frame between first contact by a complainant and resolution is a realistic measure. All contacts should be directed immediately to the corresponding department for consideration. City Hall should not be required to intervene unless the purpose has not been addressed or met. As well, elected officials should be encouraged to visit departments, speak with employees and middle management, listen to concerns, and gauge if policy and/or procedures need to be adjusted.
11. As required within the realm of the political and financial environment.
12. My strategy is to listen, question, and learn. Longer term capital planning, public and user input, technical input, financial input and political input are sound strategies to ensure balance for the future.