

## Environment

E-01: *Create recycling program for the entire city that is free of charge.*

- I don't believe this should be free, but should be part of the standard garbage fees charged along side sewer, water, etc... It should be available to all residents by being a mandatory fee.

E-02: *Use more advanced methods of recycling*

- Increase what you recycle (glass, etc.)

E-05: *Provide incentives for developers to incorporate water conservation measures into new development.*

- Impact reductions are a potential incentive

[Respondent created an E-06]: Provide incentives to homeowners to reduce water use through rainwater harvesting, low flow fixtures, etc.. Rating: 3

Hate to see city trapped to future performance because federal funds are used now.

“Going Green” is very important to me and I feel that if the city makes it easier more people would partake.

Expand current programs (curb side pickup) with a minimum cost increase.

Conserve and preserve more. Reduce pick up service to once a week and add recycle pick up.

New comment: Fine or penalize homeowners, property owners, or HOA's for wasting water (watering while raining, watering at noon, and watering sidewalks).

City incentives for energy-efficient improvements to your home i.e. HVAC, solar, insulation...

Continue Austin recycling policy in Round Rock

I have recycled all my life. I am amazed at how many people don't know about the recycling center.

We already have free recycling. We just don't have curb-side pickup of recycling materials. Re water conservation: there may be a conflict in the newer subdivisions where the HOAs require a particular landscape consistency of appearance. If we are serious about water conservation the city might have to establish an ordinance that disables some of the HOA powers. Developers could help by installing one of the buffalo grass species –or at least offering it as an option to buyers- instead of St Augustine or Bermuda. None of the buffalo grasses need more than 10 inches of water per year, and two of them top out at 8 inches or less. No irrigation needed, and mowing is optional. Once a yard has Bermuda grass it is almost impossible to replace.

## **Parks & Open Space**

P-10: *Develop new neighborhood parks*

- Would recommend the need for usable neighborhood parks

P-11: *Use city funding to acquire open space*

- by vote only

P-15: *Use vacant/neglected neighborhood areas for trail.*

If voted on, I would support

P-22: *Amend City ordinances so that electric motors are permitted on trails*

- For HC vehicles yes.
- Only for those who must have powered assistance such as a powered wheel chair- not for motorized trail vehicles that are not required by a challenged individual.
- I strongly oppose this idea.
- sidewalks to get around, for example: can't go anywhere from 3406 to CVS/Rudy's, no sidewalks or shoulders for even bikes.

People in motorized wheel chairs should have access to hike and bike trails

There's currently too much emphasis on Old Settlers. Local neighborhood parks are neglected and unattractive.

Currently I drive to Georgetown to enjoy their trail system. I would much rather stay in Round Rock.

Need to develop existing parks before acquiring or developing new parks.

Develop as much land possible. Our parks in downtown Round Rock are old and run down. Allocate funds to spruce up the older parks.

Be careful not to unduly tax residents

Use a combination of developers and city funds to create open/park areas.

Finish trails that have been started before you begin new trails.

There are so many green places around town that are threatened by development. Keep our green niches, little pockets (Old Town area along Chisholm Trail Emmanuel)

Too much neon/loot signage. Adopt regulations for low impact signage.

West side- few parks in older neighborhoods don't just put in new areas.

DO NOT BUILD REC CENTER NEXT TO RRHS AND POOL.

We have one golf course owned by the city and that is not sufficient for a city of 100,000 plus. We should take advantage of the economic downturn and buy one of the private courses if they go on the market at a substantial discount. Private courses are losing members because of the economy and it will probably mean that some of them will not make it. Otherwise, the city should consider building a nine hole, lighted par 3 course, possibly on Old Settlers Park. As our population matures, golf will be more attractive to companies considering Round Rock.

## **Support for Older Neighborhoods:**

N-12 is a nice thought, but those who don't typically maintain their property wouldn't join a voluntary HOA anyway.

City should actively organize/facilitate neighborhood clean up efforts like the Austin Clean Sweep.

These neighborhoods reflect on the entire city and if neglected drag all property values down-residential and commercial.

Enforcement needs to be that which is city policy or ordinance, not individual opinion or desire of the one doing the inspecting.

Preserve what little historical sites that still remain. Georgetown, Taylor, and Bastrop, is examples of cities that have made great efforts to preserve their historic sites and homes.

I feel it is important to help people, who need help, maintain their property. But I feel it is unfair to enforce strict standards on home owners. Offering help is one thing, strict enforcement is another.

I'd definitely like to see the City install better lighting in my neighborhood, especially coordinated with the sidewalks. Veterans Park and the street itself are well-maintained. The local neighborhood association essentially is a voluntary HOA and it is useless to most residents because it does not schedule and announce meetings.

I do not want the City hiring anyone to go around nagging people about their yard maintenance. The complaint-based enforcement is enough to deal with actual hazards. Beyond that, let people live as they please. The maintenance of rental property is different because some tenants do not have the ability to move to a better situation if the owner does not make critical repairs. The rental property maintenance oversight by the City should be limited to roof, foundation, plumbing, electrical, and heating appliances – the things that are dangerous to the tenants if they are worn out.

I have concern using code enforcement for private property maintenance standards, how far can we go before we cross the line of personal property rights? However, I don't want to see deterioration occur either. How can we balance protection of personal property rights and forcing maintenance to negate deterioration?

## Residential Design

R-13: *Require houses to be proportionate to lots*

Houses are too big on small lots (in regards to R-13)

R-15: *Require bigger side setbacks*

- should have 15' side yard setbacks (re: R-15)

R-23: Develop higher-quality design standards for housing

- Green home building (re: R-23)

R-26: *Discourage privacy fences*

- R-26 I strongly disagree with this idea. Residential design standards are not reasonable to implement as they do not promote diversity, nor do they prevent ugly design.

R-28: *Require features that gather and socialize in front yards*

- People will gather if they want to – cul-de-sacs are good for that. (Re: R-28)

Large houses with minimal lot appeal and high end empty nesters.

reduce “cookie-cutter” developments, especially treeless ones, they “might” look attractive in 20 years but more likely will look bad.

Enforcing socialization will not work.

Keep rules simple and cost effective. Keep housing affordable. Keep in mind lower paid workers that work in the city.

I think we should have some requirements, but need to let the market also determine need. Free, affordable competition will meet consumer's demands.

I strongly believe that homogenous neighborhoods are bad. You need 3 bedrooms as well as mansions. We need 2 stories with 1 story. Also when gentrification occurs, the property values in the “old times” (current residents) should have their property taxes frozen while a new owner moves in. Improvements should not force our long term residents out because property values go up.??

You get what you pay for, buyer beware.... “Location, location, location!!”

Again, I am not a proponent of excessive regulations (i.e. “Require”), I would change all my “0's” to “3's” if the word require was changed to encourage, except for alleys.

would love to see better design in the subdivisions, but I'm not sure that changing city ordinances is an effective way to get it. The more rules we write, the less freedom an architect has to do something really creative and wonderful. Also some very well-intended rules unfortunately make it much more difficult for anyone to build affordable houses, which the population truly needs.

There are several ideas to keep in mind when trying to write more effective rules, and they do not all pull in the same direction.

- Not everyone likes or needs the same things. Some people want to live in a conforming, consistent, cooperative neighborhood where buildings have matching or compatible designs. Fine, then, there should be some conformist neighborhoods. But other people crave variety, and it should also be possible for a developer to build a neighborhood where every building is an original.
- The class-affiliation of particular materials can change over time. For example, at one time a metal roof meant a cheap corrugated panel installed on a shack that would start rusting as soon as it was installed. Today a metal roof can be an expensive high-quality roof that is resistant to hail and fire, and lasts for 50 years.
- Better quality materials are usually more expensive, but more expensive materials are not necessarily better functioning.
- Poor people not only exist but they are also essential for the local economy to function. Every important business needs a staff of low-wage workers to clean the buildings, to drive the school bus, to empty the trash cans, etc. These low-wage workers need to be able to live in Round Rock, and the building code should allow for some houses without frills.
- Best of luck to whoever tries to write the rules to encourage better design without stifling the essential creative impulse. I personally like the principles discussed on the Traditional Neighborhood Design website (<http://www.tndhomes.com/feature.htm>), but I wouldn't want to insist that everyone else toe that line.

## **Future Land Use (Includes New Subdivision Design)**

- L-14: *Include cost of new schools & services in impact fees for new development*
- VERY IMPORTANT
- L-22: *Restrict the over-commercialization of areas adjacent to neighborhoods*
- That depends on the definition of “ over-commercialism”
- L-33: *Encourage more mixed-use development*
- Through incentives.
- L-44: *Place commercial activity within subdivisions*
- Neighborhoods style stores; additional elements should go with community
- L-45 *Locate apartments/duplexes carefully; near the university or dispersed within neighborhoods, not on the city periphery*
- [“within neighborhoods” is circled]
- L-52: *Require subdivisions to be organized/designed more like traditional neighborhoods*
- What is traditional since 1950
- L-57: *Require more open space (esp. for denser housing)*
- Doesn't make sense that wouldn't encourage density.
- L-59: *Require minimal amenities for subdivisions/HOAs*
- If you mean more amenities; then there are 3

Don't tax out residents who are being encircled by commercial interests.

Don't be so restrictive or require so much that Round Rock will not be competitive with surrounding areas. The market will drive development and both city and developers need to work as partners.

I am a fan of letting market have some slack in the rope but not allow things to get out of control. Please remember that design standards will not necessarily make things aesthetically beautiful, beauty is in the eye of the beholder and trying to legislate beauty is like trying to legislate morality!

## **Public Services**

S-02: *Ensure that social services accommodate population increases*

- But the steps to reduce the rate of population increase!

S-03: *Improve community input for CDBG distribution*

- City admin does well.

S-04: *Strengthen neighborhoods' sense of community*

- I agree, but this is not the City's responsibility, but rather that of the residents.

Not the cost of schools but the land for schools needs should be co-orientated with RRISD.

Well placed social services facilities is needed. However, keep in mind existing neighborhoods and what effect they will have on the neighborhood.

## **Programs and Attractions**

A-01: *Develop more entertainment/arts, shopping/dining and sport options*

- Competitive swimming facility (natatorium).
- More diversity; not simply more instances of chains and fast foods

A-04: *Attract more family-oriented entertainment options*

- But be careful with choices.

A-05: *Develop better incentives to attract a variety of businesses downtown*

- Parking

Encourage family and clean entertainment. Discourage drinking establishments i.e. Austin which has resulted in high crime, deaths, and injuries.

Growth, development and the market will drive a lot of this. The larger Round Rock becomes, certain options will become more viable (financially and necessary).

Income diversity is already great in Round Rock.

I feel like Round Rock is doing pretty well in this subject as it is (public services)

I would like to see more of this but in areas that have "died" instead of developing land for this (programs and attractions).

Need to keep increasing and approaching opportunities for teens and finding ways to get there.

Note the word change from "Develop" to "Encourage", the city can only encourage things to develop, unless we approve bonds to make this happen

## **Historic Preservation:**

H-21: *Preserve buildings in a beautiful and useful condition*

- Externally

H-23 *Exploit the tourism/economic benefits of historic preservation*

- (Underlined “Exploit”) BIASED??

H-24: *it's too late for preservation; too much has been lost*

- Never too late.

H-34: *Initiate a main Street program downtown*

- Don't know what this is.
- Though we already did this.

Preserve what little we have left as a city.

Like most Round Rock residents I've been here less than ten years and don't feel strongly about historic preservation.

Stop new development on rural areas of Chisholm Trail.

## Connectivity and the Transportation Network

C-12: *Allow for transportation improvements to drive land use rather than vice-versa*

- Depends on time (10-20 yrs. Maybe) (20+ yrs. Maybe not)

C-30: *Reduce congestion*

- By reducing the number of cars on road, not by building more roads.

C-31: *Install better synchronized traffic signals*

- And more efficient timing.

C-32: *Limit the number of school zones and keep speed limits consistent where there is more than one zone*

- our school zone is rarely patrolled – maybe too many for officers to handle. We need to call to get action when traffic gets too bad. How about remove some school zones.

C-33: *Design roads so that you notice the city and don't just pass through as fast as possible*

- Depends on the road.

C-34: *Improve street maintenance standards*

- Twin Ridge Pkwy. In Oak Bluff needs re-paving.

Reduce speed zone in residential neighborhoods (local roads) to 25 mph.

No mass transportation at this time or when it can support itself.

Synchronize traffic lights for quicker movement and to reduce wonderful engine idling.

Require developers to incorporate open space into their developments and discourage developments in areas where transportation, utilities, etc. are not capable of supporting development.

I don't know the answer to this problem but I would like safer bike/walking for those who choose to not use their car for everything.

See comments on previous page (assuming pg. 6) Kids need a safe place to get around.

## **Transportation Infrastructure**

I-11 *Improve pedestrian safety/walking experience (design, crossing signals, parking in rear)*

- [crossed out “parking in rear”]

I-21: *Use more landscaping/trees/plantings/shade*

- Care not to reduce visibility for traffic.

I-23: *Improve lighting/fixtures/illumination*

- But prevent excessive light pollution.

I-26: *Avoid using speed bumps*

- Even in parking lots.

I-27: *Create roundabouts at major intersections*

- They’re okay
- BAD IDEA!
- Strongly disagree.

No more bike lanes.

Create pedestrian and bicycle routes with in major areas, i.e. libraries, parks, post office, food stores.

Roundabouts don’t work in the US. They cause confusion and wrecks.

Please improve pedestrian safety of Hwy 79 between Mays and Grimes. Many people walk to and from the grocery store to shop or to work, and it is dangerous. Ideally no one would ever need to walk along Hwy 79, but that isn’t the case. As second best we should have sidewalks and streetlights along both sides and several places for people to cross safely – say Mays, Georgetown Rd, and slightly west of Grimes. If roundabouts can accomplish this, I’m all for it.

## **Transit**

Make use of efficient low fire transportation methods especially trains and buses.

Market will drive a lot of this

Depends on costs and reality of future use.

This is Texas, cars are king- even high schools don’t have cusses for a.m. activities- kids are required to drive.