

Mayoral & Council Candidate Questionnaire

Name: Linda Parton

Address: 220 E. Hazelhurst

Website: www.LindaParton.com

Phone: 248-545-1299

E-mail address: lindaparton48220@gmail.com

1. Why did you decide to run for Mayor/Council?

I felt a divine call to rise up from within this community to build and plant it! To build the already strong community we all share now, and to plant new life in the hearts of all the people. I feel I'm very non-political especially considering all the national "partisan" politics of late. I've been called from obscurity to assume at a critical hour in Ferndale's life the overwhelming responsibility of making decisions that need to be made, and affect some change that needs to be made within the next couple years.

2. What is your vision for Ferndale? Over the next four years? Over the next ten years?

Over the next 4 years, (actually 2 in my mind), I would love to see our downtown parking become what more Ferndale residents, it's visitors, and business owners want. Lowering of water bills is a must! And the rat population needs to be more aggressively addressed, attacked and become successful in reducing these rodents. Pixar's, "Ratatouille" is very funny, Ferndale's rats are not.

Ten years? My vision is a Ferndale that see's my grandkids frolicking and playing in it's beautiful and safe parks. I do not want to see Ferndale "going to pot". I hope and pray we decide "together" to keep Ferndale "family friendly". To do so supports our great school district that ten years from now will no longer be teaching my two currently enrolled kids. (They will have graduated!) We have supported Ferndale Schools since 1990 when my husband and I (who had just married) enrolled his two boys. Hopefully we will still have high enrollment when young couples and families decide to stay here instead of making Ferndale a brief stopping point. We need committed families to make Ferndale their permanent home as my husband and family have, otherwise it could become "Pottersville", instead of the family friendly, "Bedford Fall's" of "It's A Wonderful Life."

3. What two (2) things are you going to do that will bring your vision to reality?

I will aggressively attack the 3 issues I mentioned above, and be strongly against Decriminalizing Marijuana in the city of Ferndale.

4. Of all the issues facing Ferndale, what two (2) would you give top priority and why?

#1 Reversing the Parking System to a "user friendly" alternative. It will be a huge undertaking but it must be done to bring commerce back and have parking in Ferndale pay off for the city. There is a lot to discuss, too much for this space.

#2 High water bills cause seniors, families and single people distress when they get their bill in the mail. We can't have that! We want to keep Ferndale affordable for those of us who have lived here for years and we desire to have others move here and join us!

5. Ferndale prides itself on an active citizenry.

A) What two (2) things would you tell someone who "just wanted to help", or who "just wanted to get involved"?

Pick something you are "passionate about" and "get involved"! Go to a website, check out what you can from Ferndale Library. The other three candidates running alongside me have shown their "passion" for this city for years! Take up their example as they have made many positive changes for our city! I have a deep respect for each and every one of them!

B) Please list and briefly describe three (3) resources (print, electronic, or otherwise) that residents who want to get involved should go to for ideas, background, facts or figures.

Go to [Ferndale's City Government website](#) and view past council meetings to see all the many facets of involvement. You will also see what area's of concern for our city you could attack. Maybe you are a rat expert. Maybe you have the "know how" and can tell others how to collect rain water to use for watering instead of running up their water bill!

Of course the [Ferndale Library](#) is a storehouse of the resources you will need, either to pursue your idea or get an idea. Books, CD's, informational video's, the internet, newspapers, and other periodicals are at your access. My third resource is as old as time itself. Seek the wisdom of your elders within the community! You will find them frequenting the [Kulick Community Center](#). There is also the friendly staff at the KCC who would be happy to direct you on getting involved in this great community!

6. How do you see the council and other city leaders continuing and enhancing communication and collaboration with other organizations, municipalities and our school district? Please offer specific examples.

Reach out to all the various community entities and gather them for what could be called a community "meeting of the minds". Have a low cost coffee clutch that includes various city leaders from entity's such as City Council, DDA, Police, Fire, Religious, Chamber of Commerce, Rotary, F.A.N.S., American Legion, Masons, Jaycee's, Historical Society, Ferndale Schools, PTA, and Boosters , and possibly invite neighboring communities City Council members. This could happen once every quarter of the year, and at each gathering a different entity would present what they are all about thus educating the others who take the time to attend.

7. Please explain the importance of the city's Master Plan. Is it still relevant in this economic climate? When and how should it be reviewed?

The city's Master Plan was drafted last on August 11, 2008 and is now 5 years old.

The Master Plan provides direction for the future, and though it establishes policy to direct the city, it is not law. The Master Plan being 5 years old is up for review in accordance with Michigan State Law. The 2008 plan was due to be reviewed this past August. (Unless there was a review not posted online yet).

I believe it is important to have a plan. "Plans fail for lack of council, but with many advisors they succeed." (Proverbs 15:22.) Reviewing the 2008 plan in view of today's economic climate is a great idea. It should be reviewed by Ferndale's City manager, other city staff and 5 members of council which includes Mayor.

8. The Ferndale City Council just passed a Good Neighbor Civility Resolution. How would you as Mayor/Council Member promote the message of civility in Ferndale?

I have signed the "Ferndale Good Neighbors Civility Pledge", and am a firm believer in it's tenets! In fact I have blogged about it and have the "Full Pledge" linked to my website, see www.LindaParton.com, click on Blog, then *read more...*

So I have promoted the pledge in that way, but would also want to promote it city-wide and ask that every "good neighbor" of Ferndale review it, and hopefully desire to also sign and support the pledge!