

LBA WOODS PARK COALITION

In 20 years, where will our children play?

Date: June 30, 2015

Dear Candidate for City of Olympia Council or Mayor,

Thank you for being willing to serve your community as an elected official. As citizen activists, we appreciate the work that it takes to get elected and do the business of the people.

In order to inform our LBA Woods supporters of your positions on issues relating to the purchase of LBA Woods prior to July 15 when ballots will be mailed out, we request that you make your positions clear to the LBA Woods Park Coalition Leadership Team by answering several questions.

Attached you will find a brief questionnaire about parks issues as they relate to LBA Woods. Please answer each question with as much detail as you feel is needed and return the completed questionnaire *with your signature included*. Please scan and email your responses to contact@savelbawoods.org **no later than July 14, 2015**.

We may, at our discretion, make your responses available to LBA Woods supporters.

Respectfully,

Debra Jaqua
For the LBA Woods Park Coalition
360-701-6412

LBA Woods Park Coalition Candidate Questionnaire 2015

Please answer the questions below and return completed and signed questionnaire to contact@savelbawoods.org . Feel free to expand the space provided or provide additional sheets.

1. Briefly detail your education experience and work experience.

I am a graduate of Evergreen (2014) with a focus on education and political economy. I have worked at the Olympia Food Co-op full time since 2005. Community projects that I have worked on are, Food Not Bombs, Che Cafe Collective and Centro Cultural de la Raza in my hometown of San Diego. I have also participated in EGYHOP, Books to Prisoners and Gateways for Incarcerated Youth here in Olympia and Hip Hop Congress at Evergreen.

2. What local environmental issues are of most concern to you? Why?

I would love to see in the future and possibly help facilitate the conversion of Capitol Lake into its natural state as an estuary. While some have argued that an estuary is a “swamp” or would not be as aesthetically pleasing as the lake (which is severely polluted), I believe that its natural state would actually improve the area by inviting more wildlife, and possibly helping in situations of future sea level rise (just an idea, I am not a scientist).

Secondly, I generally oppose any further development into the rural areas of Thurston county, especially subdivisions. I believe that any future development should be happening in the heart of urban Olympia, Lacey and Tumwater and would facilitate urban areas staying wild or becoming farmland to further our community goal of fostering a local foods system that works.

3. Olympia is projected to grow by nearly 40% over the next 20 years. What is your vision of Olympia as it relates to parks, open space, and habitat?

I believe that every resident should have a park and a natural foods market within walking distance. My kids love parks and playgrounds and I believe that all future development should keep this kind of vision of sustainability in mind. We must think of ways to sustain vibrant healthy people in our communities and we can do this by creating a better experience for able bodied people to get around without

cars and other natural resource intensive modes of transportation. Of course, we must also begin looking at ways to accommodate less able bodied citizens as well with better parks planning and public transportation routes that work for all.

4. Given that funding is available through the voted utility tax, impact fees, and potential grants, it has been suggested by parks advocates that the City of Olympia buy one or both of the LBA Woods parcels now. Explain your position on that?

If I were on the council now, and it were financially responsible, I would vote to purchase the parks now and turn developers attention to our urban cores downtown, the west side and maybe develop new zones for responsible development.

5. Parks advocates contend that a Metropolitan Parks District should be submitted to the voters only if the city guarantees that the MPD funds would not be used to supplant existing parks funding. Do you agree with this position?

I am not sure that I understand this question fully and to be honest would need to know more about the specific proposal for the MPD. I would weigh the benefits and drawbacks of a MPD and what it could do for Olympia and the surrounding jurisdictions.

6. Do you favor returning the voted utility tax to the priority purpose of acquiring park land as the City stated in the explanatory statement for the 2004 Parks and Sidewalks Initiative?

Yes. It makes sense that the people voted on it and it should be implemented to continue building our parks.

Signature_ Rafael Ruiz Jr. _____ Date: _07/03/2015_____

Print Name: _____