

James Cordeiro – City Council Candidate

Thank you for your questions I'll try to answer some of them as best I can.

I believe the idea that if a city is designed to be child safe, friendly and accessible it will be safe, friendly and accessible for everyone. Understand the our city planner David Block is excited about this concept and I will work with him and the administration to make children a priority in the city plans and the designs of developers (both commercial and residential).

I support mixed housing developments to prevent “ghettoization.” I am absolutely against the proposed housing plans for the Co-op site. New developments requiring street construction should require installation of sidewalks at the developers expense and there should also be a mandatory minimum amount of common green space allotted in each subdivision.

I would support business that provides childcare spaces. I think the city could try to offer some tax incentives or we could ask TEDA to target those companies when we look for outside investment.

I like the idea of having more community gardens as well as finding space for a year round farmers market

I think it would be great if we had a children's festival like they have in Vancouver, maybe not as extravagant in the first year, planned around spring break. Similar to the “Early Years Fair” but expanded to include ages up to 18. With local businesses and government sponsorship we could make it free for children and families and work out some sort of transportation for families without. It could be like Riverboat Days with events in different locations, at local parks, or located at George Little Park.

When council makes decisions that impact young people (i.e. skate park) it is important that they have a say in the design and location of the facilities. They need to feel they are part of the process. Council could encourage more youth participation at council meetings (hopefully normal boring meetings will become a little livelier).

Certainly the city could do more if not so constrained by its budget. I know the easy answer is “we don't have the money.” With a better local economy we could do a lot more than we are doing now; however, there are things the city can do that doesn't cost a lot. The city can facilitate different groups and get them to work together on children's issues and the city could have a youth & children's portfolio. In this way there would be a dedicated contact person for these issues.

Thanks for the opportunity to talk about children's issues.

Sincerely,
James Cordeiro
William's (2 ½) dad
City Council Candidate