

Meet the candidate: Philip Dacey

By Jen Bondeson News-Post Staff | Posted: Friday, August 16, 2013 2:00 am

Philip Dacey is a Republican candidate for alderman.

Should the city continue investing public dollars in business ventures? The city owns an airport (Frederick Municipal Airport), a theater (Weinberg Center for the Arts) and a golf course (Clustered Spires). Should the city be investing in a downtown hotel and conference center?

The airport is a valuable asset for regional job growth worth the investment. The Weinberg offers important cultural benefits not being offered by the private sector. The city should closely examine the benefits of subsidizing the public golf course with 12 other golf courses in the county. Frederick needs to work with a developer to build the hotel and conference center without public subsidy. There are creative financing solutions such as Tax Increment Financing.

Assess the efficiency of the Frederick Police Department. What improvements should be made?

Statistically, Frederick police make more arrests than the county sheriffs with a similar number of law enforcement officers. In my experience, the Frederick Police Department's responsiveness has been excellent and is a major benefit to city citizens. I favor more foot patrols in neighborhoods.

Are the city's resources (funding, police, planning, recreation, etc.) allocated appropriately throughout its neighborhoods? Name any neighborhoods you feel receive too much or too little, and explain why.

The city needs to ensure that taxpayers receive benefits from services for their tax dollars. In the outer neighborhoods, residents do not feel as connected with the city that they are supporting through income and property taxes. The city must ensure that amenities such as parks are allocated fairly throughout. However, police resources should be data-driven rather than politically driven.

What's your view on the status of business and crime along Carroll Creek Linear Park? Is the



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city moving in the right direction when it comes to redeveloping this area?

The perception of crime is hindering development of the creek from being the retail and commercial centerpiece that it should be. There should be a zero-tolerance policy against the quality of life crimes that contribute to the negative perception of Carroll Creek (open alcoholic beverages, harassment, loitering, etc.). Community policing with foot patrols is a good start. There needs to be a visible presence of law enforcement at the creek.

What is the best plan for Hargett Farm?

The farm should be developed into a park as envisioned when it was purchased. The residents of the west side of Frederick deserve to be able to enjoy this type of amenity. The city should partner with the county on an aquatic park that could be enjoyed by all in lieu of another school pool. Hargett Farm is ideally situated for this.

The Frederick News-Post invited candidates in this year's Frederick mayor and Board of Aldermen election to give their thoughts on some of the city's issues. We will publish their responses over the next few weeks leading up to the Sept. 10 primary election.