

Hyde Park Election Forum

Questions 	1. What previous experiences have prepared or qualify you for City Council service?	2. In regard to planning and zoning matters, how do you want to see Hyde Park grow and develop?	3. What is your view on Hyde Park creating a city manager/city administrator type position?	4. What do you think is the most pressing concern for the city of Hyde Park right now
 Stephanie Allred Steph45a@yahoo.com 435-563-4148	<p>Working as a mom and homemaker has helped me gain organizational skills as well as people skills, (even seemingly grumpy and unreasonable people). I have learned to budget, listen, ask questions, negotiate, and figure out solutions. Having been involved in Hyde Park as a volunteer advisor for the Youth Council for the past nine years has given me a glimpse into Hyde Park's government as I have worked with the city employees and mayor. We have a great city!</p>	<p>Growth in Hyde Park has exploded. My desire is that the correct infrastructure and plans for future infrastructure are in place to sustain growth. Water is another concern. Plans for a second water tank solve these concerns and need to be carried out as planned. Many young families would like to stay in Hyde Park, but affordable housing is a challenge. I am not in favor of high density housing, but would like to study smart options that would work.</p>	<p>I am in favor of a city manager/administrator. It takes a long time to learn the city government, grants, waste water, parks, etc., that makes Hyde Park run. A city administrator would be the expert that bridges retiring and new city council members. I would focus the administrator's power on continuity and efficiency and have them accountable to the mayor and city council. Uncontrolled power in an unelected position is unwise. This position would pay for itself in savings.</p>	<p>I would say growth and handling it wisely is our number one concern. Another concern that needs attention now is our police service. We need to decide which cities we will collaborate with for police protection. A concern to take into consideration is making sure wages are fair and comparable to other cities so that we retain good officers and reduce turnover. Another concern is our need to continue to attract businesses that work well with Hyde Park values. We want businesses that will bring revenue, value and decrease the tax burden on our citizens.</p>
 Tiffany Atkinson tiffanyatkinsonhydeparkcc@gmail.com 435-232-3642	<p>I serve as a member of the Hyde Park Planning and Zoning Commission. I am a member of two HOA boards, have served on various school councils, and in leadership callings within my church. I'm raising four amazing boys, am a homemaker and Realtor. Working in these capacities has given me the perspective to help solve problems, negotiate contracts, plan activities, create budgets, outline safety guidelines, implement policies, and have input on city ordinances while working towards positive outcomes.</p>	<p>Hyde Park is growing and we are surrounded by growth in our county. It is important that we plan for and to be able to accommodate this growth. We need affordable housing, proper infrastructure, ease of transportation, appropriate business and residential developments, and preserve open space. We can do this by creating ordinances with the direction and input of the members of our community so that we can preserve the culture of Hyde Park for future generations.</p>	<p>Hyde Park is currently considering a city manager/administrator. I believe that the elected officials have a responsibility to oversee the operations of the city and to be responsible to answer to our citizens. The demands of our city are increasing because of the growth we are experiencing. We need to address these demands at the city level. We need to explore all options before we rush to decide if this is the best resolution and be fiscally responsible.</p>	<p>The growth of Hyde Park is the most pressing concern. Growth presents challenges for a community. It impacts the resources of the city, the services we are able to provide and the quality of life in our community. Although I view it as a concern, I believe we can plan for growth in order to preserve the culture of Hyde Park for future generations. Proper planning will allow us to embrace a growing community and the opportunities it can provide.</p>
 Kirk Brower Thebrowerfam@gmail.com 435-799-1173	<p>I earned both bachelor's and master's degrees at USU in math education with a business minor, and later an education specialist degree at ISU. I taught math, but the bulk of my experience is in education administration. I was elected to the board of directors for the National Association of Secondary Principals. I oversaw construction of two high schools and spent the last 5 years of my career as director of operations for the Twin Falls School District.</p>	<p>I feel that steady growth is healthy for a community. Growing too fast can be a problem, especially if the city has not planned for it. Planning and zoning are critical to good, healthy growth. I have always been impressed with Hyde Park and its hometown feeling, which is something we do not want to lose. Policies should be reviewed and updated as needs arise. Keeping our city healthy and safe would be a top priority with me.</p>	<p>I once lived in an area with a city manager, and it was disastrous; but the community couldn't just vote him out when things got bad as you could with an elected official. Being retired, I have time to devote to this job without the worry of having to earn a living or the day-to-day responsibilities of raising a family. But younger candidates do not. I believe that assistance is needed, but an administrative assistant would be a better choice.</p>	<p>There has been community concern about the "good ol' boy club" and its negative effects in our city. I moved here after retirement and have no obligatory friendships. I've also been the victim of that mentality and would never subscribe to it. I have conducted thousands of employee evaluations over the years and clearly understand the necessity of documentation and annual reviews. Transparency, communication and accountability are crucial. I would research issues with employees and stakeholders and come to a respectful consensus with the mayor, who I highly respect, and council members to make the best possible decisions.</p>
 Brandon Buck Brandonbuck81@gmail.com 435-363-6843	<p>I have served on the Hyde Park Planning Commission for the last 4 years, serving as chairperson for the last year. I have served on various non-profit boards including, President of the Hyde Park Lions Club, Cache County Food Pantry, USU Athletics' Big Blue Club and Zootah. I have an undergraduate degree from USU in Political Science and an MBA from the University of Wyoming. My career has been in the financial services industry.</p>	<p>Hyde Park has seen a bit of a growth spurt over the last year with record numbers of residential building permits being requested. I would like to see Hyde Park to continue to grow as it has over the last few years. This has been through new subdivisions being built in the city and new commercial/industrial buildings being built west of the highway. It would be great to attract new retail businesses along Hyde Park's section of the highway.</p>	<p>At this time I am neutral to creating a city manager/city administrator type position in Hyde Park. I am still gathering information for the pros and cons and the impact it would have on Hyde Park. I have reviewed the discussions that have happened at previous City Council meetings and understand that it will be on upcoming City Council meeting agendas. I encourage the citizens to attend these meetings to give input and to understand the pros and cons.</p>	<p>I don't think that there is just one pressing concern for Hyde Park currently. Hyde Park is growing and with that growth comes the responsibility for the city to maintain roads, water and sewer systems. Snow needs to be plowed. The citizens want to feel safe and know that the local police force is sufficiently staffed and ready for action. People want access to parks and fields for their children to play sports on. Hyde Park has been able to do all of this debt free. It is important to continue to do this debt free.</p>
 Karl White Karl.white@usu.edu 435-881-6642	<p>My wife and I have lived in Hyde Park for 32 years. We raised our 8 children here and love the small-town atmosphere and friendly people. I am a professor at USU. I direct a research center focusing on early identification and assistance for young deaf children. In that capacity I manage budgets, do strategic planning, evaluate/improve programs, and work collaboratively with people of differing views -- the same skills needed for a successful city council member.</p>	<p>Effective planning and zoning require balancing public good with private rights and interests. Achieving this balance requires having fair and transparent zoning ordinances and administering ordinances fairly and consistently. There should be broad public input in both the development and the administration of zoning ordinances. It is important that planning and zoning meetings are welcoming, inclusive, and respectful. Success is more likely if communication among developers, residents, and planning and zoning committee members is open and active.</p>	<p>Has Hyde Park grown to the point that it is wise to hire a city manager? There are at least 6 other municipalities in Cache Valley that have a city manager. We should systematically gather data and learn from them. About 20 years ago, Hyde Park hired a city manager and terminated the position 3 years later. We should study and learn from that experience before deciding whether the return on investment will be worth it.</p>	<p>When my family moved to Hyde Park in 1987 there were fewer than 2,000 people -- now there are almost 5,000. Growth will continue and should be managed in a way that is fair, sensible, and consistent with the values of people living in Hyde Park. I will work toward having consistent and transparent zoning ordinances with equitable and fair enforcement of those ordinances; systematic planning for the future; enhancing and sustaining essential services; maintaining parks and recreational opportunities; encouraging new businesses; being smart about how we maintain and grow our infrastructure; and, being fiscally responsible.</p>
 Shannon Rhodes rhodesshannon@gmail.com 435-881-9225	<p>I ran for office previously and learned the value of civil service. My profession as a social worker, has prepared me with the skills to be able to listen to concerns, weigh solutions, and find compromises. I am a longtime Cache Valley resident. I have been an engaged citizen and have attended the city council meetings since announcing my plans to run. I believe in putting the work in and informing myself so I can best represent Hyde Park citizens.</p>	<p>Hyde Park is growing at a steady pace right now and I believe that the focus should be on allowing it to grow, but while still maintaining the small town feel that we all love about our city. I was drawn to Hyde Park and the street I live on, largely because of the diversity here. I want people to feel Hyde Park is a welcoming city for all diverse populations. We need a good balance of growth and stability.</p>	<p>First, I think the term city manager should not be used. Listening to people in Hyde Park, this is not something that many want. However, there is a need for day to day tasks, grant writing, meeting attendance, and continuity that we do not currently have that will help our city to run smoother. I think we do need some more administrative help, but not in the form of a city manager like we all know it to be.</p>	<p>Hyde Park has been through a lot in the last year. Things have happened in our city that have caused some mistrust among citizens and leaders. Leaders will need to build trust back up, have greater transparency, and communication with the citizens they represent. I would love to see more community involvement and feedback when it comes to major decisions that affect the safety of our community and families. We need citizens to feel safe in the community they live. Civility and kindness towards each other will help to achieve this goal. This is a great city with great potential.</p>

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