



Somerville Dog Owners Group
Questionnaire for Candidates
2007 Municipal Elections

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Office for which you are seeking election: Mayor

1. Tell us about your experiences as a Somerville resident at our municipal parks. What parks do you visit, how often, what do you do there when you visit?

As the mother of two children, ages 3 and 7, I log many hours on the playgrounds of Somerville. Our current favorites are the Walnut Street Playground, Prospect Hill Park and the Corbett & McKenna Park and the Dickerman Playground. My preferred activities are sitting on a bench, reading or talking with other adults; I am often called upon to push swings, start the sprinklers, chase & be chased by small, squalling children.

2. Somerville has just over two (2) acres of open space for every thousand residents. We are the most densely populated city in the Commonwealth. Compare that to Cambridge, the second most densely populated city in Massachusetts, where there are over eight (8) acres of open space for every thousand residents. What will you do in the upcoming term to increase the area of open space per capita in Somerville.

Finish the Community Path. Repair the playing field at the Capuano Early Childhood Center. Mandate that any further development in the city include at least 15% open space. Find small fill-in sites, such as the playground at the former Powder House School, and create vest-pocket parks.

3. Despite recent improvements, nonetheless families with dogs remain underserved by Somerville's open spaces, particularly in East Somerville, in West Somerville and in the Davis Square, Magoun Square and Winter Hill neighborhoods. What opportunities will you create to improve access for families with dogs to open space?

Working with DPW, and neighbors, around the issues of noise, poop and lawn maintenance, provide off leash hours in the late evening (between 9:00pm and midnight?) in some of our parks. Not only would dogs run free, but this would increase public safety.

4. The Somerville Dog Owners Group has been delighted to see improvements in recent years in the City's Animal Control Department and in the enforcement of municipal ordinances

promoting responsible dog ownership, safe and legal options for off-leash recreation and the equitable distribution of open space in Somerville, MA.

pertaining to animals, including the leash law and the “pooper-scooper” law. What initiatives would you undertake to further improve Animal Control in Somerville?

None, at this time. I would look to Som Dog to suggest ways to improve animal control in Somerville.

5. Do you own a dog/dogs? No

6. If you are a dog owner please tell us about your dog(s); if not, please share some of your experiences with dogs in the community.

I love dogs, and we'd have a dog now, except that I promised our cat a peaceful old age. Currently, I get my dog love from Olive, who one of my colleagues brings to work; and Molson and Julia, who are regularly walked by my house.

Return to:
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