



Candidates for Mayor and Council Questionnaire Responses

Council Candidates

Alvarez, Julia – Candidate for Council

No response

Beyer, Gary C. – Candidate for Council

Beacon Hill Park has been a place where for almost a Century and a half, families have had a place to visit for picnics, play, contemplation, family time and more. While the courts have stated that overnight camping is allowed in designated parks when there are no shelter alternatives, Beacon Hill in my opinion should never be used for camping. Not 24/7 nor overnighiting. Period.

Braybrook, Tom – Candidate for Council

I would be opposed under any circumstance, but especially in light of the recent court decision that made it quite clear that overnight camping is a violation of the Beacon Hill Trust. To be clear! I have no problem with the original terms of the trust and uses outlined therein. It was shameful that our own City Council took a position in opposition to the Friends.

Cameron, Michael – Candidate for Council

No response

Caradonna, Jeremy – Candidate for Council

Thanks for reaching out, and best of luck in your endeavours!

First off, I wish to express my understanding that homelessness is a complex issue and that sheltering options were limited by the provincial health orders related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Second, I also recognize that the city was dealt a very difficult hand in trying to manage a complex issue and in ways that were both caring and compassionate, given the circumstances.

All of that said, I don't think 24/7 sheltering in parks was the best decision. My preference is that emergency sheltering take place – if not in indoor shelters – then on managed hardscapes, as in the case of 940 Caledonia.

All levels of government must step up to provide the unhoused with access to mental health, addictions, and housing supports.
To see my complete platform, visit electjeremy.ca.

Coleman, Christopher Mark – Candidate for Council

The issue is a more complex one at law, than normal Parks Management. This is due to the trust that "sits over the use of Beacon Hill Park". This may become even more complex as First Nation's rights are brought into the discussion. In light of a commitment to Truth & Reconciliation, however, I think it is an additional voice that needs to be in the discussion..

That aside, the issue of Camping (be it overnight, or 24/7) is the basis of this particular question. I actually find it astounding that such camping was allowed as that question has been put trust scholars previously & the answer was clearly that camping in BHP was not allowed under the Trust. The fact that Covid happened is not germane to the interpretation of the Trust.

The Province now seems to be interested in "varying the Trust". This should not be done in haste & only after broad consultation, with all interested parties (including the Friends of BHP).For more information, please check my website:
www.ChrisColeman.ca

Dell, Matt – Candidate for Council

I believe our generation should act as custodians of important public assets like Beacon Hill Park to ensure they are preserved and accessible for everyone. I support using the park for recreation and public enjoyment. I am also supportive of creating new amenities such as sports fields, expanded playground infrastructure, more accessible pathways and an expanded splash pad. I don't support 24/7 sheltering in public parks but recognise people have a Charter right to shelter if they have no other option. I am focused on accelerating construction of affordable housing so people experiencing homelessness have access to the housing and supports they require. The solution is not to stigmatize people because they are unhoused, struggling with poverty, discrimination or with mental illness or addiction issues. We need a full continuum of care with supportive housing services to deal with the root cause of those situations, and I'm committed to working with senior levels of government to get those services in place. I also respect the significance of the Beacon Hill Park area to the Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations. Please read more about my plan for our city at www.mattdell.ca

Duncan, Robb – Candidate for Council

I oppose sheltering in Beacon Hill Park. I think having people sheltering in parks and living rough at all is simply ludicrous in one of the wealthiest countries on the planet, and the fact that questions like this even have to be asked is an utter condemnation of the kind of governance we as a community and as a country are willing to tolerate. Housing is a human right, and people without housing are people whose human rights are being violated. Victoria's homelessness crisis should be addressed with purpose-built social housing rather than sheltering in parks. If the federal and provincial governments aren't going to meet their obligations and instead are going to continue to expect people to live outdoors, a safe, regulated, purpose-built municipal campground should be established, thereby ending the need for sheltering in parks. And if the policy of allowing sheltering in some parks is instead going to continue in Victoria, I think Beacon Hill Park should have special status and be

unavailable for this use. There are plenty of other parks. I think the terms of the original 1882 Trust should be respected. - Rob Duncan - www.drrobduncan.ca

Elarid, Jalal – Candidate for Council

No response

Gardiner, Marg – Candidate for Council

For 140 years Beacon Hill Park has been a place of solace. Uses such as settlement area for emigrants, agricultural building, military barracks, private sport clubs, zoos and eating establishments have been proposed and sometimes built then removed. Legal judgements over more than a hundred years have confirmed the recreational and enjoyment use by the public. Judge Begbie's 1884 judgement being the guide for decades.

During the height of the pandemic, as the City, under direction of Council, transferred and settled people in Beacon Hill Park, our community and the park became transformed. Mayor Helps spoke of individuals' encampments as though the campers had a type of property right to a specific area. I am thankful that the Friends of Beacon Hill Park took on the legal challenge to City actions.

Although as of July 8, 2001, the City prohibits all sheltering in BHP for 2 years, sheltering continues, albeit at a lower level.

While Justice Punnett's February 24, 2022 judicial opinion that the trust does not permit use of the park for temporary sheltering by persons experiencing homelessness, it is now being challenged, with a new contentious twist - contract rather than statutory considerations.

While the Province's appeal is to apply to many other 'trust' arrangements, it is the Friends of Beacon Hill Park left to foot the bill of supporting Justice Punnett's decision. The Province, and the City has brought extraordinary financial costs to the Friends as they work towards safeguarding the Trust for all of us.

Thank you - *Friends of Beacon Hill Park!*

Godron, Riga – Candidate for Council

No response

Hammond, Stephen – Candidate for Council

Municipal parks are not meant for sheltering. We will find out the decision of the Court of Appeal regarding Beacon Hill Park, and even if the court rules in favour of the Province, we may be fortunate in that the province might not allow sheltering in the park due to the Park's original Trust. However, if the court does rule in favour of the Province, our hands may be tied. We may find that the Province may, in the future, allow sheltering or other uses which appear to be contrary to the original Trust. In that sense, whether I wish to defend the terms of the original Trust or not, the courts will have the last say. Of course, the City can still make persuasive arguments to come up with alternatives to camping in the park.

However, if the court does not rule in favour of the Province, then it is up to future city councils to continue to designate Beacon Hill Park as free of sheltering during the

day and at night as per the original ruling of the BC Supreme Court in February of this year. I will be in favour of upholding the terms of the original Trust.

Encampments take on a life of their own, as so many Victorians found out from Beacon Hill Park and from the encampment on the provincial courthouse property years ago. If it were just unhoused people, looking for shelter, which is protected by S. 7 of the Charter (Life, liberty and security of the person), it might be understandable to avoid people freezing (for example) from the elements. The problem is the dangers created when people pray on the unhoused and the surrounding neighbourhoods. Hence, with the courthouse encampment, BC Supreme Court Chief Justice Hinkson stated on July 5, 2016, "I have come to the conclusion that the Encampment is unsafe for those living there and for the neighbouring residents and businesses and cannot be permitted to continue."

When our City is overwhelmed with people who are unhoused, and there are not enough homes or shelters, the City can take extraordinary measures, to ensure protection of people. But sheltering should never be in parks and they should never be unsupervised nor unrestricted. These encampments just become too dangerous for everyone. www.VoteStephenHammond.ca

Hanna, Christopher – Candidate for Council

In response to your question regarding my view upon "sheltering in the park", I would say that the response of the municipal authorities to homeless Victorians camping in Beacon Hill park during the COVID epidemic was a disgrace. Since the courts had determined that homeless persons could camp in parks, the civic authorities should have ensured that such camping in Beacon Hill Park was confined to one or two areas (I would suggest the all-weather playing field at the southwest corner of the park) in order to limit damage to the park, reduce the possibility of negative interactions with other park users, and reduce the ultimate remediation costs. I would have installed tent platforms, portable toilets, washing facilities, a communal cooking area and surrounded the area with a fence and a controlled entrance. I do not believe that the wording of the Trust prohibits camping in the park as I believe the Trust's definition of "use" encompasses temporary use of the park for accommodation during a state of emergency. As you are doubtless aware, barracks were erected in the park during the First World War and subsequently removed. While the FBHP succeeded in obtaining a legal judgement that camping in the park was not acceptable under the terms of the Trust, I do not agree with the judgement. That the provincial government has decided to appeal the decision obtained by the FBHP is most unfortunate as it may potentially limit the future operation of the trust. I think the FBHP make a tactical error in securing a court judgement banning all homeless from sheltering in the park and I hope the Trust and its ability to protect the park will not be injured as a result.

Harasymou, James

I don't believe parks are a good place to set up tents. Alternative locations for sheltering should be made available.

Isitt, Ben – Candidate for Council

No response

Janzen, Sandy – Candidate for Council

No response

Jones, Jason –Candidate for Council

I have read through the links provided, thank-you for standing up for Victoria's iconic park. Sheltering is not to be permitted! It is for all the people of Victoria and their guests to use and enjoy, that can not occur to the extent it was originally intended & presently desired by the majority, if it's being used for sheltering. With the alternate usage of the park I do support Pickleball, Summer Night Movies, children's water park and the like, as it's the community enjoying the land for escapism and relaxation, while to taking in nature's beauty and pleasant memories.

As a member of council, I'd work hard to aid you in keeping Beacon Hill Park, there for everyone's enjoyment today and tomorrow.

Kalala, Muller – Candidate for Council

No response

Kim, Susan – Candidate for Council

No response

King, Anna – Candidate for Council

Those sheltering in the park are doing so because they're desperate – no one actually wants to camp outside all year long. As a mother of young children who attend nature preschool at Beacon Hill, I understand the concern for safety at the park. However, legal enforcement isn't a compassionate response to the situation – nor will it solve the problem.

A health response rather than a police response is key. The PACT (Peer Assistance Response Team) pilot project will roll out this fall that can help those suffering and camping. I want to work with community partners such as Our Place Society, Salvation Army, and the Coalition to End Homelessness to develop a practical strategy to keep the park safe and accessible for *everyone* – which means the homeless as well as those who are fortunate enough to have a safe place to live.

Our priority shouldn't be enforcement: it should be liaising one-on-one with the homeless community to direct them to appropriate local resources for housing and health. But we must also develop long term plans for increasing those resources because there simply aren't enough at the moment. Legal enforcement against the homeless community in the park should be an absolute last resort. These people are part of our community and they deserve respect and compassion.

Klassen, Brian – Candidate for Council

I am in favor of the no shelter policy for Beacon Hill Park.

Loughton, Krista – Candidate for Council

No response

Maddock, Jeremy – Candidate for Council

In my view, Beacon Hill Park is not an appropriate location for sheltering, and Mr. Justice Punnet was correct in honouring the terms of the Trust.

Beacon Hill Park is a public space that should be accessible to residents and attractive to tourists. The best way to prevent it from becoming a homeless shelter is to ensure that is never perceived as being abandoned or dangerous. The Park should therefore be re-opened to motor vehicle traffic and horse-drawn carriages, with public tours and community events encouraged and supported by the City.

Nightingale, Janice – Candidate for Council

No response

Orcherton, Steve

Beacon Hill Park has been a mainstay community amenity that has been enjoyed by Victorians for many, many, years. This intervention by the Province causes me a great deal of concern.

The park should not be used for tents or sheltering. It is my view that the terms of the original trust are clear and need to be defended.

Partenteau, Emmanuel – VIVA Candidate for Council

As you can see in my web platform link below, I am against sheltering in any of our parks. In the summer of 2021, a hammer wielding "resident" of the Beacon Hill Park threatened to kill me in front of my 15 year old son. I have been speaking with the VicPD and Our Place directors in order to come to a solution for our city that does not include outdoor sheltering.

Contact me for more details.

<https://emmanuelparenteau.com/2022/09/13/homelessness/>

Pinto, Derek – Candidate for Council

My position is simple: No sheltering in the park.

Pitt Chambers, Khadoni – Candidate for Council

No response

Quitau, Jordan – Candidate for Council

I do not support sheltering in the park. Sheltering is not what the park is meant for and it increases the risk of criminal acts toward visitors and local residents. I understand that it is a process to find alternative housing for folks currently sheltering there, so let's provide the help these folks need because we do not want to leave anyone out in the cold. I want Beacon Hill Park to be safe and accessible to everyone.

I am not sure what is meant by "alternate uses". I am for Beacon Hill Park being used for family events such as movies in the park. Essentially, I am fine with alternate uses as long as they do not negatively impact the integrity of the park, cause a disturbance for surrounding residents, or damage the wildlife and vegetation.

I only recently heard about the Trust for the first time, so I am currently learning more about it. From what I gather, I do support defending the Trust. It appears as though the government is not respecting the terms of the Trust when they have an obligation to do so. Beacon Hill Park is a beautiful amenity to the city, let's keep it that way.

Scott, William – Candidate for Council

I strongly support the FBHP’s position in defending the terms of the trust, and I do not support sheltering in any park. We can create better alternatives. Large crowds in the park such as Luminata ? were harmful...smaller ones at the bandstand are fine but seniors and PWD need more consideration for parking closer to the venues we do use. Perhaps there is a way to use re-moveable barriers to open areas of the park at times for special events. If members were to view my website, <votewilliamscott.ca>, the third pillar of my platform addresses this, and it will give your membership a flavour for what I think should be done in all parks and remaining green space in the city.

- Community gardens, pollinator pathways along city streets, and back yard biodiversity are vital to the health and well being of all the city’s inhabitants
- Ecological restoration as part of city planning is a form of respect and reconciliation. The Songhees and Esquimalt peoples, as with all First Nations, have a wider concept of home than does the City’s Development Services. Home is conceived as “the relationships which connect a person to all that surrounds them,” including people, plants, animals, insects and the land as a “place to connect with family, community, ancestors and all of creation.”

Some things not on my website... is the fact that I have taken part in ecological restoration in a number of areas across this city for a good number of years volunteering broom-pulling and weeding seedlings at Government House and Mount Tolmi. I am an approved native plant salvager in Saanich and, less formally, have salvaged in Langford. For 25 years I’ve volunteered for the Rockland Woodland Garden, which my wife, Janet Simpson, continues to spearhead on behalf of the Rockland Neighbourhood Assoc and the City.

I believe the city needs to establish a Voluntary Stewardship Program as a pool of trained volunteers who can help in various areas of the city....long-term volunteers are aging (I’ve got grey starting to happen) and the City and Parks should be involved in making sure that the next generation bond to our natural environment.

I have had a facebook page recently added, and I plan to put out my positions on various local issues that impact all parks.

Sifert, Brad – Candidate for Council

No response

Simmons, Susan – Candidate for Council

I do not support sheltering in the park.

If other activities not support by the Trust were to take place, it would set a precedent for sheltering. For that reason I can not support other activities.

Sinclair, Tom – Candidate for Council

No response

Smith, Shea C. – Candidate for Council

I find the Beacon Hill Park Trust to be a document that is outdated and colonial in every sense of the word. The place we now call Beacon Hill Park was never anyone's to give or be given rightfully. It is a shocking display of colonial entitlement to even argue the matter seriously. While we speak of reconciliation we can not be taken seriously as we commit ourselves to such displays of arrogance. The right to shelter is a Constitutionally protected right which supersedes all law in Canada. Justice Punnett was correct in theory. According to the Trust sheltering is not permitted by the Trust. Justice Punnett also stated that his answer could be subject to legal and constitutional appeal and that his answer was solely based on what was in the Trust. I find it humorous the friends of Beacon Hill believe they can stop anyone from sheltering in the park. After all this will not solve the problem of people needing shelter regardless of how much they argue about who it belongs to to shelter in. People will still have to shelter there until there are enough places for people to actually live, that is the issue we should be focused on

Thompson, Dave – Candidate for Council

No response

Williams, Janice – Candidate for Council

I am a firm supporter of the trust and feel that the park needs to be vigorously defended from inappropriate uses - including shelter and commercial uses. As our city densifies, it is critical that natural spaces within our city, and in particular those spaces that hold historical significance to our community be protected, maintained and improved for all Victorians to enjoy both now and in the decades to come. The terms of the original trust have withstood the test of time, and have ensured that Beacon Hill Park has continued to be a beloved amenity in our city for the past 140 years. It is critical that the park remain protected and that either the existing trust or a substantially similar trust be in place to guide how the park is governed. I believe there may be benefit to the park being a provincial responsibility given its inherent significance, not just to the City of Victoria but also to the province as a whole, and further, I would support amendments to the trust to have the Lekwungen people empowered to protect the park as an amenity for the recreational use and enjoyment of British Columbians for the next 150 years.
www.willvotewilliams.ca

Yacowar, Tony – Candidate for Council

Beacon Hill Park is a unique and spectacular part of our city. We need to have a Housing First approach to homelessness, and it must be a priority for the city to work with the CRD and senior levels of government to provide housing for all unhoused people in the city so that we don't need to have sheltering in our city parks.

Mayor Candidates

Alto, Marianne – Candidate for Mayor

No response

Andrew, Stephen – Candidate for Mayor

No response

Atkinson, Lyall – Candidate for Mayor

If you and your members support me I guarantee you will not need to do further leagle action . I would like to sit down with you and hear what problems you have endured in the last 8 years and correct this.

Fuentes, Rafael

I'm sorry that you folks are in a legal battle for fighting for what you believe in . If I become Mayor, I do not believe in 24/7 living in any park so I would enforce the latter.

However, out of kindness and compassion, (with proper documentation ie. student card , loss of employment signed by employer etc.)I would allow about 6-12 vehicles for overnight sleeping (8pm to 8am) sleeping in the corner of the parking lot by the hill/close to the animal farm. It would be in the back corner. I would hire 3rd party security overnight and I would encourage the police to do more patrols . The washroom would be open with the security guard.

The above would be for very short term for people experiencing a crisis for valid reasons with documentation. We can figure out resources later to house them, feed them etc.

Anymore feedback is appreciated as I will not do a survey.

We can collaborate more if I become Mayor .

I really like BHP..I love my kids . I want to differentiate. BHP is one of my favourite places and I spend a lot of time there especially during spring and summer! Let's work together to keep it one of the best places!

If I become Mayor and to encourage council, we will use the appropriate resources to support FBHP. Thanks. Rafael

Graham, Rod – Candidate for Mayor

It seems that the 'good' people of Victoria only want to see their interests met. No compromise seems to be offered. But don't worry, the status quo - you people - and your expensive purebred dogs will surely win in the courts as you people usually do. May I remind you of the old phrase you've heard before - Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. No, you can't understand this because you only understand what is according to your selfishness and greed. Hopefully you will not end up poor, and/or homeless some day.

Johnson, David Author – Candidate for Mayor

I take the stewardship of Beacon Hill Park most seriously and will stand by the current prohibition of tenting within it. That is, until the addiction epidemic is demonstratively ended.

There is no reasonable denying of the fact that we are on the verge of economic and environmental collapse. The misty Truman Show-like delusion of dependency on a tourism industry will soon invariably break and we will be left with a cold calculated response to survive as a community. And that will include tent-cities. Tenable tent-cities bereft of crack, crystal meth and heroin. Resided in by a volunteer gardening force ne'er seen before. One of them likely on the gravel soccer field.

Until then, no tents in Beacon. Implicit sleeping, fine. Just no tents.

It might take close to 2 years to outright end the addiction epidemic; end the risk of letting those with the largest stockpiles of drugs have literal armies.

Marshall, Brendan – Candidate for Mayor

No response

Wilboltt, Michelle – Candidate for Mayor

My view's: horror's, disgusting, vulgar, hideousness, disrespectful.

To whom am I refers?

The 70+ churches that sat/sit mostly empty, the same buildings that never pay property taxes, the same user's out in these street putting demonic in our drug user's heads with all theirs judgement, contempt, control eh, community divisiveness.

And for the comfortable "friends" to attack the homeless, most of whom, born and bread on this island, hmmm 🙄

Horrors. So filthy's. So Crüe. So demonic .

This is what I thinks,
Thanks for asking,