

Election Forum

Itinerary, Plan and Question Framework

Location: Ecole Secondaire Notre Dame Highschool

Time: 7:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Itinerary

7:00 pm	Welcome and opening remarks from M.C.
7:05 pm	Opening statement from Mayoral and Council candidates. Speaking order will be determined by random draw. Each speaker will get 3 minutes to make their opening remarks
8:10pm	Begin round one of open space discussions
8:30 pm	Round two of open space discussions
8:50 pm	Round three of open space discussions
9:10 pm	Round four of open space discussions
9:30 pm	Closing remarks by the MC

Plan

The evening will be divided in two. The first hour of the evening will be for opening remarks from all the candidates. Each candidate will get three minutes to make their statements. Candidates should be prepared to be cut-off by the timekeeper if they run long. The speaker order will be determined by random draw.

The second hour and a half of the evening will be conducted as a modified “open space” meeting. There will be four Topic Spaces set up in the event space. Each space will have a discussion theme and some sub-themes. A moderator at the Topic Space will facilitate discussion between the candidates and the public.

As these are open-space meetings, there are very few rules to them. Very simply: The “law of two feet” applies; if the discussion isn’t going in a direction that the audience wants it to go or if the candidate would like to move to another topic area, each is free to leave the meeting space and go to another topic space.

We will be timing the meetings and sounding a horn or bell every 20 minutes. This is just to remind people that the evening is moving along and that if they want to talk to lots of people, they should think about moving around.

The facilitators at the meeting spaces are there to keep the discussion moving forward and to prevent individuals with single-issue concerns and big personalities from commandeering the conversations.

Question Framework

The main part of the Gathering area in the Notre Dame lobby will be set up in “topic spaces”. Each space will have a white board. The theme for the space will be written on the whiteboard. Candidates are encouraged to self-select, split up and move to one of the spaces. Throughout the remainder of the evening both participants and candidates will be free to move from space to space depending on interest, time, willingness to discuss myriad topics or desire to interact with more/fewer people.

There will be a tone sounded every 20 minutes; just to keep the evening moving and to remind people that there is a limited amount of time.

Topic Space 1

Theme: River/Park

Sub-themes:

- Natural Parks Policy
- Waskasoo Park Expansion
- Invasive Species Control
- Water Quality
- Current and Future River Usage
- Regulatory Authority (River)

Topic Space 2

Theme: Land Use/Development

Sub-themes:

- City Footprint
- Greenbelts
- Maintenance/Conservation of Agri-land
- Urban Densification

Topic Space 3

Theme: City of Red Deer Green Business Practices

Sub-themes:

- ISO 14000 Certification
- Environmental Master Plan Content/Implementation
- Idling, Plastic Bags, Drive –throughs & other community concerns

Topic Space 4

Theme: Air Quality

Sub-themes:

- Traffic Reduction
- Cycling Lanes
- Transit Improvements
- Rail Link/High-speed Rail