



Vero Beach City Council Candidate Questions Linda Moore's Answers

The following questions were sent to all the candidates and each candidate confirmed receipt of them. The answers are unedited by the IRNA and CWC and copied directly from the text of the document that we received back. (Some candidates sent their own PDFs.) The answers below are the words of the candidates and we hope that their positions on various issues help you to know them better.

The city of Vero Beach has established a Stormwater Utility to generate \$1M/year to build flood control and water quality improvement projects. So far, it has been funded by CARES Act money which will no longer be available in 2023.

- A. Will you vote to fund the Stormwater Utility at the previously approved ERU rate?**
- B. If you are opposed to the Stormwater Utility, please provide your reasons for your position.**

I will do so, provided that the study completed by Kimley Horn has identified shovel ready projects that will make a significant impact on the lagoon. I would also like to see discounts for remediation efforts for businesses that spend the time and money to remediate their own stormwater problems.

Referendum on Charter protected property restrictions

- A. Should the marina area be included as a Charter restricted property?**
- B. Should Charter properties expansion of a certain size be subject to a public vote?**

- A. No
 - B. No
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Three Corners

- A. Do you support the Three Corner Commission's recommended plan for the old power plant site?**
- B. If not, what would you like to see happen at the three corners?**
- C. How will you make your vision a reality? (Please be as specific as possible.)**
- D. Do you support the referendum on the Three Corners? (former power plant property)**

- A. Yes! Fully support, having been on the steering committee that helped institute the plan.
- B. N/A
- C. In the event that the referendum passes, we will have to find a developer with an interest in the plan. My personal preference would be to retain "Big Blue", but as a business owner I am realistic. If there are structural problems with the building that make it impractical to save, I would support replacing it. I would like to see the property developed to the highest stormwater standards possible, utilizing permeable pavers, rain gardens, native plants, solar lighting and anything else that can be done to protect the lagoon and make the three corners an example to the rest of Florida of environmentally friendly construction. I would like to see local restaurateurs have the opportunity to open restaurants there (as opposed to all chain restaurants). I would ensure that the facilities there could be utilized by all citizens, regardless of income. The way the plan is drawn, 70% would remain green space, I would make sure that happens.
- D. Yes.

Research has proven that septic systems are one of the main culprits for the polluted state of the Indian River Lagoon, the demise of the seagrass beds and resulting starvation of the manatees. The STEP System can provide connection to sewer for homes and businesses throughout the City.

A. What do you think the city can do to increase the speed of adoption of the STEP system?

B. Will you support mandatory STEP connection for septic systems on the barrier island? The mainland? C. How would you aid those homeowners in neighborhoods that are economically constrained?

- A. I think if we got together with the county, there are numerous grants that could be used to pay for step system conversion. There is NOTHING more important than getting that done.
- B. I would support mandatory connection as long as we procure grants to make it financially feasible. Not everyone can afford \$10,000. I would look for private/ public partnerships with local non-profits that could possibly assist with the cost for people who can't afford it.
- C. State grants, possible non-profits, loans from the City that can be paid off over time, I would consider any and all ideas on this topic. We have to think outside the box and get this done.

There have been several environmental and quality of life issues raised regarding the expansion/improvement of the Marina. How would you engage the citizenry more effectively to build consensus around the project?

Education. There are a select few who will not be swayed, but I believe there are many misperceptions and fear mongering that can only be battled with information about the project. Also, I would follow the CWC guidelines concerning best practiced involving dredging, storing dredged material, etc.

Recently Low Impact and other sustainable development incentives have been brought up in the city.

A. What is your take on these?

B. What kinds of incentives would you like to see implemented, if any?

- A. I agree whole-heartedly that we must encourage people to be as environmentally friendly as possible, especially when considering new construction.
- B. I would support stormwater credits and potentially other types of tax credits for sustainable and low impact construction.

A large portion of Vero Beach is located in a high hazard flood area.

A. What, if anything, do you think Vero Beach needs to do to mitigate sea level rise?

B. What kinds of projects/plans do you want to see the city undertake?

C. How might our building regulations be updated to prepare for sea level rise?

- A. We need to look towards the future and pursue solutions including protecting sewage systems (move the sewage treatment facility off the lagoon ASAP), raising roads, stormwater improvements, and seawalls.
- B. I would ensure that the Sewage Treatment facility gets moved to the new location near the airport.
- C. Buildings will have to store more stormwater on site, buildings may have to be set back farther from the water than in the past. New ways to clean stormwater before it reaches to lagoon will have to be devised. We have to do better about protecting mangroves.

City ordinances that regulate fertilizer applications, require a containment barrier at construction sites, require a plant barrier in front of water bodies, etc. were enacted to

prevent further run off pollution but are rarely enforced. How do you propose better enforcement?

We MUST do better at enforcement. Perhaps additional code enforcement officers will have to be employed by the city to root out the guilty parties and correct these infractions.

What do you think are the three most urgent, far reaching, and challenging policy issues facing the City of Vero beach over the next 5 years?

- 1) There is nothing more urgent than restoring the Indian River Lagoon. There is no quick and easy answer to this problem, but we will have to focus on Septic tank to step system conversion, innovative stormwater solutions, seagrass replacement where practical, and green sustainable building solutions.
- 2) The three corners is our opportunity to provide recreation and entertainment for our citizens young and old, and also a much needed revenue source for the City that will enable us to finance projects that will help the lagoon.
- 3) Inflation is a problem everyone is dealing with. My employees are having a harder time finding affordable housing to rent. We need to look at our codes and reevaluate how to facilitate projects being built that help our citizens, as opposed to more storage units, etc.