
Candidates talk about green space

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Candidates for the Brentwood Board of Commissioners met with members of Citizens for Brentwood Green Space (CBGS) and concerned citizens at a forum on Wednesday.

Candidates Richard Boone, Betsy Crossley, Anne Dunn, Frederic E. Kane, Paul Ross, Brian Joe Sweeney and Bill Youree fielded timed questions all addressing their policies for protecting and increasing the amount land in Brentwood that will remain undeveloped. Candidate Bob Bell did not participate in the forum.

"Eighty percent of people in a recent poll said preservation of green space is important to them," Steven Prince with CBGS said.

Green space includes natural buffers surrounding property, and undeveloped land in the form of parks and trails.

Kane fielded questions about preservation of family cemeteries and procedures for transferring land to the city for preservation. He suggested utilizing the Tennessee Land Trust arrangement, and organizing a tour of family graveyards.

"It lets people know what we value," Kane said. "We value family here in Brentwood."

Youree said he was against forming a separate city commission board for green space.

"I'm a conservative. I believe less government is good government," Youree said. "We can solve this problem without another board to meet and talk. We need action."

He also endorsed utilizing local media outlets to engage the public in the use of Brentwood's public green space, like the new bikeway system being dedicated April 14.

Incumbents Dunn and Sweeney commended Brentwood's track record.

"Not to say that we can't do more," Dunn said. "I am proud of our record, proud of the city of Brentwood."

Later she said she did not support setting aside a separate budget for the preservation of green space, since the city did not do this for other concerns like historic preservation.

“I believe in green space,” Sweeney said, although he staunchly reminded the crowd of the importance of 150-foot buffers along roads.

Crossley called for scenic hill and view shed preservation.

Boone suggested a different system of counting green space to increase the amount.

“Don’t want medians to be included in count,” he said. I don’t think it should count unless the land is publicly usable.”

Ross supported more projects like the Liberty Church Pike project to extend efforts to preserve and maintain historic roads.

The Brentwood City Commission election is Tuesday, May 1.

Early voting began Wednesday, April 11, and continues through Thursday, April 26 at the Williamson County Election Commission Office in Franklin, Brentwood Municipal Building on Maryland Way and Brentwood Public Library on Concord Road. Hours are 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8 a.m. to noon on Saturdays.

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