

Matt Dowgwillo

1. Why are you running for this position? (150 words)

- a. What makes me stand out above the other candidates? I'm always open to learning, but already have the connections, skills, and abilities to get the things done that Uptown residents want. I believe I can make our community better by improving police/community relations, adding bike lanes, encouraging local business, investing in education, "greening" the city, reopening Nicollet Ave, getting rid of "No Turn on Red" signs, and working with other council members to prioritize spending to get this done. I love uptown and share most peoples' values that live here. I am very progressive and value the social community of Uptown. I love the art, local shops, safety, cleanliness, lakes, health, and progressive attitude of the people. I'm afraid that we have not considered long-term goals with Uptown developments. I'm invested here. I have a home and run a business, which works with many of the other neighborhood businesses.

2. Describe your background and why it makes you a good candidate for the position you seek? (156 words)

- a. After college and travelling around the world I bought a home in Uptown in 2005. I'm working hard to restore it to its original character because I plan on staying here. I want to see Uptown maintain the qualities for which I originally moved here as listed above.
I hold 2 degrees from the University of MN here in the Twin Cities. BS in Economics and in Environmental Science. I spent 3 years researching local lake water quality and understand the connectivity of multiple systems and importance of our green space. I also worked with a banking Cooperative to help put low-income people in homes and build personal equity. However, my main qualification comes from running my own business and dealing with new technologies on a daily basis. Its taught me how to prioritize resources, follow goals, and actually accomplish projects. I want to use my energy and expertise to make Uptown a better place!

3. If elected, how will you work with the Lyndale Neighborhood Association and Lyndale community members to help us improve our neighborhood? (114 words)

- a. I see working with other groups toward common goals as a huge missing piece to current city policy. I want to work with neighborhood organizations, businesses, and non-profits toward common goals, creating new jobs and a safer, more sustainable city in the process. I would really like the neighborhood organizations to reach out to people not as involved in the groups, from young people, to immigrant communities, to the Minneapolis Police. I will support community gardens and social activities. I will take an active roll in recruiting younger residents to join the associations; I feel that if we know and respect each other, we can be safer, cleaner, and live a better life.

4. What will your top priorities be if you are elected? (143 words)

- a. Reopen up Nicollet Avenue as a main shopping district. There is no reason that Nicollet should be cool and developing in every neighborhood but ours (before 28th and after 40th). Well, actually, Kmart has a lot to do with it, so we need to open the street up!
- b. Prioritize city spending and make it more toward more sustainable practices. Starting by getting involvement by city employees at all levels; let's increase efficiency first!
- c. Put a bike lane up Garfield Avenue to keep bikers safe near the Franklin/Lyndale intersection, as well as supporting other bike considerations.
- d. Provide a voice to the community by opening up city books and creating a single online resource for citizens to create and vote on issues in their neighborhoods.
- e. Get rid of most "No Turn on Red" signs.
- f. Schools, parks, and community programs.

5. For City Council & Mayoral Candidates

a. What is your view on the role of neighborhood organizations in Minneapolis and how will you work with and support these organizations if you are elected?

a. I view neighborhood organizations as an integral part of building our community. It is important that they have access to contacts and lists of other groups working toward the same goals. It is also my understanding that as a council member, I would get a \$400/month stipend for my car. I would give this money each month to my Neighborhood Organizations to help them get more activities and youth-driven events going; things to encourage participation.

b. What will your approach be to ensuring the City is financially healthy over the long-term?

a. We need to stop wasting money and prioritize spending. We cannot keep making conflicting policies that increase costs. Traditional politicians have opted to use band-aids for big institutional issues. And we need to stop raising property taxes as the only means to pay for things. We must elect someone that is going to fight and change the system in a big way! Let's get creative, using technology to optimize systems. Let's use proven programs other cities have done to increase revenues. Let's encourage businesses and see them succeed so they can pay more taxes. Let's tax consumer products based on their impact to the community.

Additionally, programs must be held to levels of success and finish on time and within budget. I will push for better financial auditing of projects to make sure they meet deadlines and budget.