

If you could make one suggestion for your elected official to focus on during the next six months, what would it be?

OPEN-ENDED RESPONSES TO THE QUESTION:
“If you could make one suggestion for your elected official to focus on during the next six months, what would it be?”

Note: This report organizes the responses to this question according to major themes. Some responses reflect more than one theme and are repeated under each. Responses have been edited to correct punctuation and spelling. Lengthy responses which gave more than one answer were separated and attributed to the appropriate theme accordingly.

If you could make one suggestion for your elected official to focus on during the next six months, what would it be?

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If you could make one suggestion for your elected official to focus on during the next six months, what would it be?

Accessibility

Universal design and accessibility for all citizens.

Affordable Housing

Road repairs, safe walking/ biking, affordable housing in A2 in general.

We need more affordable housing.

Real estate development that promotes affordable housing in accessible locations and that promotes employment and economic development in a community friendly and appealing manner.

Ann Arbor Public Schools

Finding ways to assist the AA Public Schools in their funding crisis. Without great schools our whole community is diminished. - the most obvious assistance could be with transportation. Let AATA take over the job of getting students to schools and take that financial burden off of schools. It could be a free service to low income families and a sliding scale charge for other families. The city needs to help find solutions to solve the crisis so the schools don't have to cut funds every year. The schools have a lot of building space - is there any way the city can supply funds to the schools by renting school space for events or some offices? Are there other ways the schools and the city can share resources to help both function more efficiently?

Do not make further cuts in education.

Schools and infrastructure repairs (roads, etc.), communications has improved and hopefully will continue.

AATA

Finding ways to assist the AA Public Schools in their funding crisis. Without great schools our whole community is diminished. - the most obvious assistance could be with transportation. Let AATA take over the job of getting students to schools and take that financial burden off of schools. It could be a free service to low income families and a sliding scale charge for other families. The city needs to help find solutions to solve the crisis so the schools don't have to cut funds every year. The schools have a lot of building space - is there any way the city can supply funds to the schools by renting school space for events or some offices? Are there other ways the schools and the city can share resources to help both function more efficiently?

More money for street repairs and buses.

Improving public transportation.

No more money wasted on public transportation - it is under-utilized at best.

A budget that addresses future obligations to retirees before funding public art, county-wide transportation, or convention center development.

If you could make one suggestion for your elected official to focus on during the next six months, what would it be?

Communication

Talk to your constituents.

Communication with residents.

Communication to residents of happening/events in the city.

Listen to the concerns of citizens.

Listen to the people.

To listen to all residents, not just the naysayers. There are people in this town who are happy with the Mayor and how things are going. Not wanting to make a public spectacle of yourself, does not make your opinion any less valid.

Improve the city website. help people learn more about being an involved citizen.

Get the City to fix its web site. The links don't work half of the time.

Improved communication; the Neighborhood Watch system is terrible since the Police Department switched over to a new, uninformative system. The AnnArbor.com website is not user-friendly to find information. We need better online venues to share and receive information.

Schools and infrastructure repairs (roads, etc.), communications has improved and hopefully will continue.

At last we have Council people (women!) which we can count on for communicating with us and feeling that they will vote in our best interest. Keep us posted on what is happening and respect our opinions. Thanks!

We need more communication since we no longer have a daily newspaper. More meetings in our Ward.

Continue to meet with Ward 2 citizens.

Do a detailed factual analysis of spending on essential services vs. nonessential or ideologically based spending (and especially the amounts paid to nongovernmental organizations) and then communicate the results to the citizens.

Respond to my email/halt the effort to balance the cities budget on the backs of business.

I would like Ward 5 reps to follow in Ms. Petersen's footsteps with better communication with constituents.

Tell us what you're doing. Ryan Stanton of annarbor.com does yeoman service, but it would be nice to get timely bulletins from you.

Conduct broad online surveys such as this one, and implement voter priorities when spending our tax dollars.

And thank you - again - and so very much, for asking and for this survey. When can we vote for you for Mayor?

If you could make one suggestion for your elected official to focus on during the next six months, what would it be?

DDA

Past Council made DDA a "state within a state" by giving DDA lots of authority and money. New Council should recapture this authority and money by taking back parking policy and parking revenue and by taking back decision-making power over what occurs downtown.

Council should vet appointments made by the Mayor. The reappointment of [Name] and the approval of this appointment by Council illustrates why the DDA feels so comfortable acting against the public interest.

The unelected DDA has promoted past extravagant projects; it is time to question the power that Council has ceded to the DDA. Because of debt incurred to build the underground parking and the new Courts building, the DDA now proposes that the City sell four downtown surface parking lots to developers. This proposal squanders a valuable and irretrievable public resource. It incidentally would enrich the DDA through TIF generated by new construction, which may be ill-conceived, unnecessary, and destructive of our town's character.

Have someone look into increasing customer service specialists and decreasing the DDA. Heck, just eliminate it.

Rein in the DDA from building projects that mainly serve to continue funding for the DDA (e.g. connecting William, Library expansion).

Put DDA to quit being the Mayor's puppet along with planning and historical. We only have one perspective----his.

... Oh, ONE suggestion you said, ok, dissolve the DDA immediately.

Eliminate the DDA and have City handle its services and debt.

1-Too many "do gooders" on Council. Many have their own agenda. Too much micro-managing. 2-Who/What is the DDA and are they good for the city? They appear to be out of control. The William street stuff I feel is way off the mark. Parking seems to be completely ignored.

Deer

Overpopulation of deer eating the landscaping.

I want you to act on pedestrian crossings right away, and then deal with issues like deer, roads, etc. (NOTE: It was hard to prioritize #37!)

Economic Development

Use of City-owned downtown properties for appropriate economic development.

Work with City Council to: develop a more predictable, cost-effective process for future building and development.

Encourage the development of the downtown. Our downtown is totally uninteresting.

Ensuring that downtown development is wisely managed in addition to restoring trust through the passage of a city ethics policy for elected officials.

Downtown development- review and improvement of zoning to meet city planning objectives and in line with our services (police, fire, utilities...etc).

If you could make one suggestion for your elected official to focus on during the next six months, what would it be?

Change design review and A2D2 zoning to match intent in downtown plans.

More thoughtful planning and development.

Planning and zoning reform.

Budget priorities. Services before projects. Revisit the recent changes to zoning ordinances to protect our neighborhoods.

Control of and clarity on the growth of high rise buildings/private dorms downtown and in South U areas. Review and update plan and code requirements and their impact on historic districts and city infrastructure. When does the city/university exceed need for new housing, what is the need? Lost taxes from UM buying up land and property and new taxes from new high rise dorms, etc. What's the cost and the promise.

Support positive changes in the community, particularly for alternative transportation, supporting local businesses, and more density in the downtown/commercial areas. Don't say no to everything!

Take an active part in bringing development of downtown Ann Arbor. Important to provide walkable housing for young professionals, not just student housing. I'm worried about current restrictive nature of non-progressive Council members. It's important to for the City to avoid the movement to prohibit change. Atrophy is not good for such a potentially vibrant city. It's unfortunate that very few if any City employees actually live in the city.

Real estate development that promotes affordable housing in accessible locations and that promotes employment and economic development in a community friendly and appealing manner.

We need a train station instead of an unpaved UM parking lot at Fuller Park. We need a convention center downtown.

Kick start the transportation efforts like a new train station and expanded train service. Support development downtown.

Approval of a transit center/new Amtrak station and creation of a downtown mall on Main St. or Liberty like they have in Charlottesville (<http://www.charlottesville.org/Index.aspx?page=177>) - this could tie into the current downtown "green initiative" plan.

Concentrate on developing Ann Arbor's downtown and especially the Allen Creek Greenway.

Decide to provide a "Citizens Commons" on the top of the Library Lot.

Also to fight for decent open space in downtown -- Liberty Plaza is a joke.

More and better park amenities (like a central square/park, dog park) to draw people downtown, build a dense core and make it more interactive with the community...not just eat/drink focus. I find it sad that A2 has not 1 blade of grass downtown...its all hardscape :(

I never supported the Greenbelt -- would prefer to focus on our city, not on farmland outside our city.

Attracting more businesses (not restaurants) to the area. Give firm attention to the number of high-rise apartments that are being built in the city.

Improve incentive for business to keep employers & businesses and their tax revenue.

Economic development, bring high quality jobs.

Get more housing downtown.

If you could make one suggestion for your elected official to focus on during the next six months, what would it be?

Stop approving high rise buildings which in my estimation dramatically destroy the ambiance of Ann Arbor.

Better decisions about development in the city. Seems like there's too many high rise student apartments now. We're losing our charm. State Street is not what it used to be. I don't like the underground parking and it's hard to find parking downtown.

Think more about the needs of the long time residents of the city and less about building new condos and apartments to lure new residents into the city. I live near downtown and like to be able to go there for shopping and dining but I usually want or need to drive. I love being able to park in convenient lots (surface lots or on street). I am sick of hearing about how the surface lots are a waste of space and we all need to park in the structures. Increasing density in downtown AA will probably lead to my moving out of the city in the next couple of years. But my impression is that city council would prefer to have new and younger residents move in and have the older folks move out anyway. Ann Arbor is a wonderful town in many ways but it has lost its small town "feel" in the nearly 30 years I've lived here.

Safety over art funding: Police funding (downtown patrols vs. rape & assault), fire department funding, pedestrian safety), developing a vibrant economy not just massive student-housing apartment buildings.

Protecting historical places and protecting urban growth from ugly square box buildings, etc. And no more chain stores on State St or Main St!! Stay local/ buy local. This is OUR community and we need to support our vendors. Thankfully, we have the artisans market!

Less sprawl, more walkable neighborhoods, less crime.

Stop downtown density and overbuilding. Prevent overdevelopment in residential neighborhoods.

A budget that addresses future obligations to retirees before funding public art, county-wide transportation, or convention center development.

Sell the new City Hall and the underground parking garage. I want my money back.

Environment

More environmental care taking - less salt on roads, help disposing of invasive species, path network development, bike safety/accessibility.

Rejecting overpopulation (source of most every world problem). Sustainability in lieu of growth.

Approval and effective implementation of the city's solid waste management plan and climate action plan. None of your questions dealt directly with environmental protection and sustainability.

Approval of a transit center/new Amtrak station and creation of a downtown mall on Main St. or Liberty like they have in Charlottesville (<http://www.charlottesville.org/Index.aspx?page=177>) - this could tie into the current downtown "green initiative" plan.

Fiscal Responsibility

Fiscal responsibility. (3)

Economic security and stability of City is that on which all else stands.

We need to be a financially sustainable city.

Fiscal responsibility. Prioritizing city spending. Improving the council's decision making process.

More services for less cost i.e. better efficiency.

If you could make one suggestion for your elected official to focus on during the next six months, what would it be?

Be critical of proposals for capital projects--expansion of public transport, new train station, water/sewer and consultants' fees for same. Our financial predicament is the result of past decisions to incur debt to build extravagant projects. Some decisions were made quietly away from public scrutiny, then pushed through with only pro-forma public discussion. It will take time--and a new standard of transparency--for the City to regain the trust of citizens.

A long-term fiscal plan that would provide a path to paying off our bonded indebtedness (including that of the DDA) and either meet or pare back our obligations to present and future retired city workers. This would involve revisiting some existing expenditure areas, like buying up development rights to farmland outside the city, and possibly repurposing (with voter approval) the millage devoted to them.

Providing a budget that assures core public services are adequately funded. Charities and art and subsidizing the University of Michigan are not core city services. Another concern is the city has lost the public's trust in the misuse of taxes and diversion of funds from core city services.

Holding the line on taxes and spending (i.e. as for new capital projects where repurposing/renovation would be as effective).

A budget that addresses future obligations to retirees before funding public art, county-wide transportation, or convention center development.

Smart sustainability in terms of government spending and in terms of maintaining the character of A2.

Conduct broad online surveys such as this one, and implement voter priorities when spending our tax dollars.

Do a detailed factual analysis of spending on essential services vs. nonessential or ideologically based spending (and especially the amounts paid to nongovernmental organizations) and then communicate the results to the citizens.

Remember, your job is about more than worrying about money. A thoughtful, calm long range vision on what to do and how to spend would help. Stop worrying about the here and now and lead into a positive future.

The review of the NE area plan in terms protecting residential property values and the steward of our green space.

Respond to my email/halt the effort to balance the cities budget on the backs of business.

Find where money is wasted, like paying mileage and a car allowance, funding public art rather than encouraging private funding, unrealistic pensions, pet projects, and restore basic neighborhood services (fire stations and equipment, police foot patrols, road maintenance, etc).

Budget priorities. Services before projects. Revisit the recent changes to zoning ordinances to protect our neighborhoods.

Affordable government for the next 20 years. Make sure that long-term compensation agreements for City employees are financially sustainable with current levels of taxation (adjusted for inflation).

Governance

Focus on "the greatest good for the greatest number" in decision making...too much special interest / politics...promote citizen responsibility.

Make decisions based on data rather than opinion.

Stop delaying every vote and use some courage to make a decision.

If you could make one suggestion for your elected official to focus on during the next six months, what would it be?

Stop petty wrangling within Council.

Arbitrary and ill-considered decisions and allocations by City Council.

The majority on Council should remember that good ideas can come from all quarters, even outside its single minded caucus.

Listen and remain open to ALL possibilities when seeking solutions.

Please do not be swayed by the opinions of the vocal minority.

Not to get swayed by the vocal MINORITY in Ann Arbor who use the local media outlets to push opinions that are not representative of the community.

Keeping the Mayor from pushing through his private agendas and not allowing the vocal minority to sway voting.

Look out for what is in the best interests of the entire community.

Making sure that ALL residents affected by changes such as Newport Rd sidewalks are able to give input and be informed not just those who wrap their kids in bubbles.

Improve responsiveness of City Council and city commissions to citizens concerns. Oftentimes, it appears decisions made are foregone conclusions and that actual public input, when it occurs, is not actually considered.

Ensuring that downtown development is wisely managed in addition to restoring trust through the passage of a city ethics policy for elected officials.

More transparency in your governing.

Be honest.

Common ground--not the posturing kind, the real kind.

Be more collegial on council.

Remember, your job is about more than worrying about money. A thoughtful, calm long range vision on what to do and how to spend would help. Stop worrying about the here and now and lead into a positive future.

Start behaving like you are providing a service for which you are being paid, not like it is the other way around.

Council should vet appointments made by the Mayor. The reappointment of [Name] and the approval of this appointment by Council illustrates why the DDA feels so comfortable acting against the public interest.

Influence Mayor's selection of committee appointments.

Implement the agreed to priorities from the retreat- public safety (police/fire) etc.

Fiscal responsibility. Prioritizing city spending. Improving the council's decision making process.

Focus on the primary responsibilities of city government. Work on the essentials, rather than the trim.

If you could make one suggestion for your elected official to focus on during the next six months, what would it be?

Be critical of proposals for capital projects--expansion of public transport, new train station, water/sewer and consultants' fees for same. Our financial predicament is the result of past decisions to incur debt to build extravagant projects. Some decisions were made quietly away from public scrutiny, then pushed through with only pro-forma public discussion. It will take time--and a new standard of transparency--for the City to regain the trust of citizens.

Avoid wasting time and money on divisive silliness such as "art", grandstanding proclamations of international and cosmic import, wind and solar boondoggles, painting manic bike lanes which put us in front of cars, cutting numbers of travel lanes on roads, planning "our" future and "our" children's future as if omnipotent deities, huge public transportation projects and their large private benefits to public officials, etc. Stick to running the city and not running the citizens' lives and futures.

Integrating the student voice into the Council.

There are no silver bullets - just continue to execute on the big tasks facing the City.

Please examine and address the overly complicated process of governance and service delivery in Ann Arbor. Empower the City Administrator to manage his staff and remove the political gamesmanship that negatively impacts morale and productivity. Staff need to follow best practices for their field of expertise, not give politically popular answers. Also, hold the City Attorney accountable and demand written opinions -- again he is too political. We elect council members and the Mayor to engage in the political process; do not allow the Mayor to engage staff in areas outside their area of expertise, as he has done with Eli Cooper. Related to this is the extensive "power" of the many committees and commissions consisting of unelected members appointed by the Mayor.

Here in Ward 1 we are very suspect of the City government. They have been unresponsive and would quickly pass the buck. I am thrilled that Ms. Kailasapathy is there now and I feel more optimistic. More transparency. ... For that matter make the city employees all city residents to ensure that they are invested. I would like to address each of the previous survey questions in greater depth sometime. I AM more optimistic going forward because of the recent changes in city government.

Focus on the needs of ALL Ann Arbor citizens and quit trying to be Boulder or NYC. We need city services more than "art". All these pie in the sky ideas and passing resolutions regarding other state or city issues--we didn't elect officials to waste time on this--focus on ANN ARBOR citizens and issues. We are buying art and trying to push a multimillion \$ library when we have poor roads, no snow removal services, no police on the street downtown anymore, etc. I wish my fourth ward rep cared enough to even ask what we want. She is invisible to most of the people she is supposed to represent. Its like city officials are the insecure little brother, doing everything to try to prove to those outside of AA that we really are great, aren't we? AA is a great city but it's only due to the eclectic group of people living here. Our city government is trying to turn us into something that only a very small percentage of residents want us to be. It's sad what city government is doing to us.

1-Too many "do gooders" on Council. Many have their own agenda. Too much micro-managing. 2-Who/What is the DDA and are they good for the city? They appear to be out of control. The William street stuff I feel is way off the mark. Parking seems to be completely ignored.

Try to make it clear that the City Council does not seem to to represent the residents of A2.

Make sure City Officials do not take advantage of the tax payers.

Implement a non-partisan election process for City Council and Mayor. Right now the winner of the August Democratic primary is a virtual certainty to be elected in November. Voter participation is extremely low in August so essentially our representatives are elected by 9 percent of the population. At the same time, I think council members should be elected on an "at large" basis or reduce the number of Wards. There is too much concern over what is going on in one little neighborhood and not enough attention given to Citywide concerns.

Listen to Jane Lumm. That lady is wise. Stick to CITY issues.

If you could make one suggestion for your elected official to focus on during the next six months, what would it be?

Are there term limits for our mayor? Seems like he's been in office a very long time.

Focus on the needs of the people, not yourself. I am confident our Ward 2 representatives focus on our needs and listen to our requests. I am not confident the other elected officials and appointees are doing that.

I think both Sally and Jane have similar goals to mine and I rely on their continued good judgement to achieve them.

One of you should run for Mayor!

Infrastructure - Roads

Fix the roads. (9)

Roads, roads, roads.

Spend more on fire, police, fixing and plowing roads, street lights.

Fix roads, more street cleaning.

Infrastructure is our future, we must take care of it.

If the City will not consider a hard surface for the dirt road between Washtenaw and Woodcreek subdivision (Chalmers Drive), would they please monitor the need to spread a decent cover of gravel. This is a miserable sight most days, dreadful potholes and ruts that tear our vehicles apart. The monthly drop of large stones and dirt does very little to address this misery. Perhaps a city engineer could make a recommendation re this. Using 3/4 inch crushed rock with a 3 inch base would be my recommendation. Thanks for looking into this. We are all weary of the endless phone calls to the city re this. Thanks.

Fixing the roads and provide reasonable services in stead of worrying about public arts and ranking in magazines. Those two are too remote for citizens of Ann Arbor. For example, when we rebuild the Stadium Bridge but not fix the roads on the both ends, then brag about the surplus of road fund is just idiotic. Further more, to "assure" there will public arts installed by the new bridge in the spring is just pure lunacy!!!

Complete streets: walking to school or work, cycling, walking for pleasure.

Schools and infrastructure repairs (roads, etc.), communications has improved and hopefully will continue.

Road repairs, safe walking/ biking, affordable housing in A2 in general.

Road repair and sidewalk maintenance. I am a cyclist and the roads are in horrible condition.

Taxes are high and streets are shoddy (materials and workmanship).

Some streets are fine -- some are horrible.

Roads and Pipes. The rest are just amenities.

More money for street repairs and buses.

STOP SALTING THE STREETS SO MUCH!!!

Focus on the things we need instead of the things some might want. i.e. safety, roads are necessary, increasing parks space is not.

If you could make one suggestion for your elected official to focus on during the next six months, what would it be?

Taking care of the day to day operation of the city - safety, trash, streets, sewers, lighting - not art, unnecessary train stations, etc.

I want you to act on pedestrian crossings right away, and then deal with issues like deer, roads, etc. (NOTE: It was hard to prioritize #37!)

Non-motorized Transportation

Separation and signage for bikes and walkers in Gallup Park.

Complete streets: walking to school or work, cycling, walking for pleasure.

Road repairs, safe walking/ biking, affordable housing in A2 in general.

More environmental care taking - less salt on roads, help disposing of invasive species, path network development, bike safety/accessibility.

Extend and enhance the network of cycling options throughout the city, particularly through the introduction of more non-motorized paths on government-owned land not necessarily along roads.

Avoid wasting time and money on divisive silliness such as "art", grandstanding proclamations of international and cosmic import, wind and solar boondoggles, painting manic bike lanes which put us in front of cars, cutting numbers of travel lanes on roads, planning "our" future and "our" children's future as if omnipotent deities, huge public transportation projects and their large private benefits to public officials, etc. Stick to running the city and not running the citizens' lives and futures. Oh, ONE suggestion you said, ok, dissolve the DDA immediately.

And stop converting our 4-lane streets into 2-lane streets with central turning lanes and largely unused bike paths! This traffic strategy is ridiculous.

Parks and Park Services

Concentrate on developing Ann Arbor's downtown and especially the Allen Creek Greenway.

Please, protect park land and maintenance of services for parks.

Getting more trees planted in Ward 2. Since the ash bore, it's quite barren.

Focus on the things we need instead of the things some might want. i.e.. safety, roads are necessary, increasing parks space is not.

Do not permit any change in the status of Huron Hills golf course. Keep it as it is.

Bring back the ice ponds. ... Look into BBQ in more parks to encourage more family use. Consider increasing the number of parks maintenance employees that actually live in Ann Arbor so that they will be genuinely invested. For that matter make the city employees all city residents to ensure that they are invested.

Focus on basic services and excel at keeping these at quality levels, instead of expanding parks and green space . . . in other words most residents want to see basic quality of life with the large amount of taxes we pay versus trying to build a "legacy" of being like Boulder or Portland. Along these same lines residents want to be safe in downtown Ann Arbor . . . more than we truly need a park, say near the library.

Decide to provide a "Citizens Commons" on the top of the Library Lot.

Also to fight for decent open space in downtown -- Liberty Plaza is a joke.

If you could make one suggestion for your elected official to focus on during the next six months, what would it be?

... Resurrect a real forestry department, bring back proper park maintenance.

More and better park amenities (like a central square/park, dog park) to draw people downtown, build a dense core and make it more interactive with the community...not just eat/drink focus. I find it sad that A2 has not 1 blade of grass downtown...its all hardscape :(

Do NOT replace the tennis courts in Windemere!

Safety and maintaining the parks, re: Huron Hills.

Pedestrian Safety

I have discussed with Jane the uneven sidewalk on the cut-through between Nixon and Briarcliff, which was marked for repair when the city did the new ramps. I hope it will be repaired this summer. I still miss the ramp that was removed at the end of the Prairie-Renfew cut-through (people are walking around the barrier rather than taking the new ramps), the the stop sign that was installed is a case of overkill.

Remove pedestrian crosswalk by Wash. Co Rec Center.

Pedestrian crossings and overall safety/speeding on Washtenaw Ave. Mid-block crossings should have the same signals installed as the ones on Huron near the Y. The intersection at Washtenaw and Brockman continues to be unsafe. This intersection should have traffic stopped in all directions when pedestrians are crossing, especially during times when students are going to and from school.

I feel that the pedestrian safety ordinance is confusing and unsafe for both pedestrians and drivers. I would like to see clarification so that I don't have to monitor the sidewalks so much when I drive down Plymouth Road (removing the "approaching a crosswalk" language), and I would like to see an ordinance that makes it illegal to jaywalk across more than 2 lanes (and for this to be enforced and ticketed). I drive a long stretch of Plymouth road 4-5 times a day and every day someone crosses all 4 or 5 lanes at a place 50 yards or less from a big crosswalk. I feel that these pedestrians are causing a public disturbance, and I fear for my safety as well as theirs. I am a cautious driver, but I feel I am not able to be as vigilant as I need to be when I drive in that area. I also feel that educating and enforcing bicyclists to act as vehicles in the downtown area is crucial to everyone's safety. No more running red lights and stop signs!

The new crosswalks are not planned well -- only the ones on Plymouth with lights feel safe.

Green Rd "Diet" more accommodating to residents, ie slower speeds, safer pedestrian crossings.

The pedestrian-driver interface. Too much is given to pedestrians, unwisely and totally unsafely.

Safety - crossing streets, the rules are confusing with cross walks: are you meant to stop at a cross walk even though the light is green? Our neighborhood has poor street lighting, feelings of being afraid when walking in the evening. Are there enough police to patrol?

Making sure that ALL residents affected by changes such as Newport Rd sidewalks are able to give input and be informed not just those who wrap their kids in bubbles.

I want you to act on pedestrian crossings right away, and then deal with issues like deer, roads, etc. (NOTE: It was hard to prioritize #37!)

Pedestrian safety! I want sidewalks on Maiden Lane!

Solve the pedestrian crosswalk problem before more people are injured.

If you could make one suggestion for your elected official to focus on during the next six months, what would it be?

Cleaning up the mess caused by the local ordinance for pedestrian crosswalks and return the ordinance to match the State of Michigan law. It is not wise nor safe for pedestrians to have crosswalks in the middle of busy roads (i.e. not at a street light/stop sign) and expect that vehicles will be able to see them in time to safely stop. The crossing beacons are a vast improvement on Plymouth Rd, but we did not need 6 pedestrian crosswalks within 1.5 miles, and there are many other new dangerous crosswalks without the beacons (e.g. on Washtenaw Ave). This ordinance has caused accidents and fatalities. It was well intentioned, but poorly thought out and poorly implemented. Plus how are people coming from out of town supposed to know that there is a different ordinance within Ann Arbor than anywhere else in the state? It's nonsense. Pedestrians should be expected to look both ways and cross when it is safe to walk - like we were all taught as kids, or go to an actual intersection.

Reverse the confusing inconsistent, unsafe, and unreasonable, pedestrian crossing regulations and markings. Use only red lights to stop traffic on main roads like Washtenaw or Ann Arbor-Saline or Plymouth and don't ask drivers to be mind readers.

Changing the pedestrian law within the city to match the law of the state.

Public Art

More police presence downtown, safety on the streets, do something about panhandling, support revisions to public art policy.

Not the most important, but: Instead of a self-appointed group deciding what public art should be, let's make it a public contest like Grand Rapids, and have our citizens vote on the art, with the top winners getting prizes. The new public art outside the city hall extension was a gross waste of \$700,000.

Stop the 1% for public art and put the money back where it was pulled from.

Do not raise taxes, especially for stupid things like art for the new city hall.

Providing a budget that assures core public services are adequately funded. Charities and art and subsidizing the University of Michigan are not core city services. Another concern is the city has lost the public's trust in the misuse of taxes and diversion of funds from core city services.

Forget about unnecessary lifestyle initiatives like public art, which doesn't reach the neighborhoods--thankfully, considering what I've seen so far. (The best public art I have seen is the petunia lined main drive in Charlevoix).

Safety over art funding: Police funding (downtown patrols vs. rape & assault), fire department funding, pedestrian safety), developing a vibrant economy not just massive student-housing apartment buildings.

A budget that addresses future obligations to retirees before funding public art, county-wide transportation, or convention center development.

Taking care of the day to day operation of the city - safety, trash, streets, sewers, lighting - not art, unnecessary train stations, etc.

Better use of tax revenues! Look at City hall sculpture as evidence of improper use of tax money.

Quit art program.

Avoid wasting time and money on divisive silliness such as "art", grandstanding proclamations of international and cosmic import, wind and solar boondoggles, painting manic bike lanes which put us in front of cars, cutting numbers of travel lanes on roads, planning "our" future and "our" children's future as if omnipotent deities, huge public transportation projects and their large private benefits to public officials, etc. Stick to running the city and not running the citizens' lives and futures. Oh, ONE suggestion you said, ok, dissolve the DDA immediately.

If you could make one suggestion for your elected official to focus on during the next six months, what would it be?

Find where money is wasted, like paying mileage and a car allowance, funding public art rather than encouraging private funding, unrealistic pensions, pet projects, and restore basic neighborhood services (fire stations and equipment, police foot patrols, road maintenance, etc).

... We need city services more than "art". All these pie in the sky ideas and passing resolutions regarding other state or city issues-we didn't elect officials to waste time on this-focus on ANN ARBOR citizens and issues. We are buying art and trying to push a multimillion \$ library when we have poor roads, no snow removal services, no police on the street downtown anymore, etc.

Fixing the roads and provide reasonable services in stead of worrying about public arts and ranking in magazines. Those two are too remote for citizens of Ann Arbor. For example, when we rebuild the Stadium Bridge but not fix the roads on the both ends, then brag about the surplus of road fund is just idiotic. Further more, to "assure" there will public arts installed by the new bridge in the spring is just pure lunacy!!!

PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE stop paying for art or art directors. Pay for:, Police, Fire, Road crews and garbage removal (including leaves), Parks. I don't care about anything else. If you give me these 4 areas and fully funded, you can even raise my taxes. I do not want to pay taxes for art. I love art. I enjoy cultural activities of all kinds and support the arts personally. I do not want my taxes to go for art.

Change the "bucket" distributions so some cranks can't hijack monies for what they conceive as "art".

Be more concerned with services provided to the tax-paying community as opposed to the user community, and unnecessary items (public art).

Public Safety

Public safety. Police and fire. (6)

Safety and maintaining the parks, re: Huron Hills.

Implement the agreed to priorities from the retreat- public safety (police/fire)etc.

Focus on improving basic services--public safety and services.

... Beefing up police strength -- use of 24X7 video cameras in high crime areas would be fine with me to supplement their staffing.

Getting our Fire and Police Departments back up to their preferred funding levels.

Spend more on fire, police, fixing and plowing roads, street lights.

More police presence downtown, safety on the streets, do something about panhandling, support revisions to public art policy.

Getting police staffing levels at the appropriate place, i.e. more downtown / campus area patrols even bringing back the police on bikes in warmer weather.

Improved communication; the Neighborhood Watch system is terrible since the Police Department switched over to a new, uninformative system. The AnnArbor.com website is not user-friendly to find information. We need better online venues to share and receive information.

To make sure that the fire department has enough staffing and resources.

Less sprawl, more walkable neighborhoods, less crime.

We need to support our police and firefighters. ... Neighborhood watch works well in our neighborhood since we have someone who volunteers to send out the notices.

If you could make one suggestion for your elected official to focus on during the next six months, what would it be?

Public services, especially police and fire, and road repairs.

Safety - crossing streets, the rules are confusing with cross walks: are you meant to stop at a cross walk even though the light is green? Our neighborhood has poor street lighting, feelings of being afraid when walking in the evening. Are there enough police to patrol?

Safety over art funding: Police funding (downtown patrols vs. rape & assault), fire department funding, pedestrian safety), developing a vibrant economy not just massive student-housing apartment buildings.

Focus on the things we need instead of the things some might want. i.e. safety, roads are necessary, increasing parks space is not.

Encourage the police to become involved in neighborhoods-there is a lot if animosity between cops and civilians.

Focus on basic services and excel at keeping these at quality levels, instead of expanding parks and green space . . in other words most residents want to see basic quality of life with the large amount of taxes we pay versus trying to build a "legacy" of being like Boulder or Portland. Along these same lines residents want to be safe in downtown Ann Arbor . . . more than we truly need a park, say near the library.

Taking care of the day to day operation of the city - safety, trash, streets, sewers, lighting - not art, unnecessary train stations, etc.

Lower taxes. less money for police, have U of M pay city taxes.

... Beef up community standards enforcement.

Need to look at the whole public safety model. Can't just hire more cops and firemen, because we can't afford that approach. What happened to the smaller, 2 man fire trucks recommended by the consultant? What about combined fire/police personnel, can that be made to work?

Public Services

Improving basic services. (3)

Focus on providing excellent basic municipal services.

Bring back leaf street pickup in the Fall. (5)

Pick up our leaves. You claimed you had no money, and yet the year ended with a surplus in the accounts! That is dishonest, at best.

Wish there was still leaf collection for houses that need it.

Restore and improve basic services. Bring back leaf and Christmas tree collection; beef up community standards enforcement, resurrect a real forestry department, bring back proper park maintenance.

Picking up our xmas trees and leaves. Stop taking away services.

Spend more on fire, police, fixing and plowing roads, street lights.

Snow removal.

Prompter snow plowing.

Snow removal is terrible in the Waldenwood subdivision area.

If you could make one suggestion for your elected official to focus on during the next six months, what would it be?

Plowing seems slow in our neighborhood.

Public services, especially police and fire, and road repairs.

Providing a budget that assures core public services are adequately funded. Charities and art and subsidizing the University of Michigan are not core city services. Another concern is the city has lost the public's trust in the misuse of taxes and diversion of funds from core city services.

Focus on improving basic services--public safety and services. Maintain the urban forest. Forget about unnecessary lifestyle initiatives like public art, which doesn't reach the neighborhoods--thankfully, considering what I've seen so far. (The best public art I have seen is the petunia lined main drive in Charlevoix).

Focus on basic services and excel at keeping these at quality levels, instead of expanding parks and green space . . in other words most residents want to see basic quality of life with the large amount of taxes we pay versus trying to build a "legacy" of being like Boulder or Portland. Along these same lines residents want to be safe in downtown Ann Arbor . . . more than we truly need a park, say near the library.

Taking care of the day to day operation of the city - safety, trash, streets, sewers, lighting - not art, unnecessary train stations, etc.

Roads and Pipes. The rest are just amenities.

Find where money is wasted, like paying mileage and a car allowance, funding public art rather than encouraging private funding, unrealistic pensions, pet projects, and restore basic neighborhood services (fire stations and equipment, police foot patrols, road maintenance, etc).

PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE stop paying for art or art directors. Pay for:, Police, Fire, Road crews and garbage removal (including leaves), Parks. I don't care about anything else. If you give me these 4 areas and fully funded, you can even raise my taxes. I do not want to pay taxes for art. I love art. I enjoy cultural activities of all kinds and support the arts personally. I do not want my taxes to go for art.

PLEASE continue to provide us with the highest possible level of service and let us pay for those services through our taxes – even if it means raising our taxes to do so.

Be more concerned with services provided to the tax-paying community as opposed to the user community, and unnecessary items (public art).

Maintaining the quality of property and service including water supply to city lots now using wells.

Water rates.

Solid Waste

Approval and effective implementation of the city's solid waste management plan and climate action plan. None of your questions dealt directly with environmental protection and sustainability.

Storm Water

Footing drain disconnect program.

Incorporating public input into the Storm Water Plan.

If you could make one suggestion for your elected official to focus on during the next six months, what would it be?

Taxes

Do not raise taxes, especially for stupid things like art for the new city hall.

Reducing property tax burden.

Reduce taxes.

Control of and clarity on the growth of high rise buildings/private dorms downtown and in South U areas. Review and update plan and code requirements and their impact on historic districts and city infrastructure. When does the city/university exceed need for new housing, what is the need? Lost taxes from UM buying up land and property and new taxes from new high rise dorms, etc. What's the cost and the promise.

Improve incentive for business to keep employers & businesses and their tax revenue.

Taxes are high and streets are shoddy (materials and workmanship).

Quit dabbling in all the political stuff (do we support the war in Afghanistan, etc.) and focus on providing citizens real value for our tax dollars.

Focus on basic services and excel at keeping these at quality levels, instead of expanding parks and green space . . . in other words most residents want to see basic quality of life with the large amount of taxes we pay versus trying to build a "legacy" of being like Boulder or Portland. Along these same lines residents want to be safe in downtown Ann Arbor . . . more than we truly need a park, say near the library.

Lower taxes. less money for police, have U of M pay city taxes.

Better use of tax revenues! Look at City hall sculpture as evidence of improper use of tax money.

Go after tax revenues from U of M unused lands and challenge the U more, check on uncapping fraternities and sororities who pay tax rates from decades ago.

Reduce unnecessary spending and lower taxes for home owners. Investigate whether the University can pay a fair share of taxation, rather than continually remove properties from the tax rolls (I believe Brown University is paying a yearly rebate to the city for their use of city services and lack of taxation).

I think that, given the UM's lack of consideration for the residents by buying up land, the city should institute an income tax which would hit the UM non-resident employees. AA residents should then get a tax credit (dollar for dollar) either for the income tax when paying property taxes or vice versa. Thus, the tax paying AA residents would see better services by making those working and earning money here pay for the fire, police protection and for the roads.

Revenues -- with U-M owning more and more property, where will additional or replacement revenues come from. I support a (very) small income tax for the city.

Serious consideration of a city income tax.

Initiate a discussion of a city income tax.

PLEASE continue to provide us with the highest possible level of service and let us pay for those services through our taxes – even if it means raising our taxes to do so.

PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE stop paying for art or art directors. Pay for:, Police, Fire, Road crews and garbage removal (including leaves), Parks. I don't care about anything else. If you give me these 4 areas and fully funded, you can even raise my taxes. I do not want to pay taxes for art. I love art. I enjoy cultural activities of all kinds and support the arts personally. I do not want my taxes to go for art.

If you could make one suggestion for your elected official to focus on during the next six months, what would it be?

Traffic

TRAFFIC!!! especially at the new shopping center on Washtenaw. No one seems to care what a mess this will be.

Washtenaw traffic problems that will arise when new shopping center opens across from Whole Foods.

And stop converting our 4-lane streets into 2-lane streets with central turning lanes and largely unused bike paths! This traffic strategy is ridiculous.

Green Rd "Diet" more accommodating to residents, i.e. slower speeds, safer pedestrian crossings.

Ordinance to address vehicle idling, limit idling to 'one minute'.

Train Station

Getting the new train station project on Fuller started.

Train station location.

We need a train station instead of an unpaved UM parking lot at Fuller Park. We need a convention center downtown.

Kick start the transportation efforts like a new train station and expanded train service. Support development downtown.

Develop a plan for a better train station for commuter and intercity use.

Approval of a transit center/new Amtrak station and creation of a downtown mall on Main St. or Liberty like they have in Charlottesville (<http://www.charlottesville.org/Index.aspx?page=177>) - this could tie into the current downtown "green initiative" plan.

Depot: get the "imaginings" out of the conversation. The Observer article is a start. There has NEVER been a public dialogue. Let's not lose the momentum, get Fuller Park a dead horse.

Stop wasting money on that train project.

Taking care of the day to day operation of the city - safety, trash, streets, sewers, lighting - not art, unnecessary train stations, etc.

Stop spending money on the train station unless it's confirmed the station will be built.

I don't know that this should necessarily be a focus issue, but I would ask an open mind based on facts....and I can't stress this enough...when it comes to considering where the train station would go. I personally think a good transportation hub is important to our city and will become more important in the future. Our current train station is woefully inadequate....uninviting, cramped, difficult to get to with a car, and horrible access as far as parking. I would hate to see us lose Federal dollars for this just because people can't sit down together to come to a logical agreement about the best place for a new transportation hub. This could be a golden opportunity thrown away...Michigan in general puts more into the Federal money pot than they get back, and we should start taking advantage of offers for development when they would be a good benefit for us, and I think this offer is a good one.

If you could make one suggestion for your elected official to focus on during the next six months, what would it be?

Transportation

Build a transportation center that includes trains, try not to ruin what is left of the riverfront in the process. Remember, your job is about more than worrying about money. A thoughtful, calm long range vision on what to do and how to spend would help. Stop worrying about the here and now and lead into a positive future.

This is more long-term, but I'd really like to see a good county-wide public transportation system. I commute to Pittsfield Twp for work, and there is no way to get there other than by car (or combination bus/bike/walk, with no sidewalks or bike lanes).

Kick start the transportation efforts like a new train station and expanded train service. Support development downtown.

Support positive changes in the community, particularly for alternative transportation, supporting local businesses, and more density in the downtown/commercial areas. Don't say no to everything!

Stop chasing alternative transportation. Our density is simply not high enough to support more public transit without unreasonable public subsidies.

Manage the city and avoid boondoggles like transit centers, new buildings, etc.

Be informed and support the recommendations of the Ann Arbor Airport Advisory Committee and do not bend to pressure groups outside of Ann Arbor.

Why waste money on airport expansion that isn't needed?

Walking the talk on multi-modal transportation.

University of Michigan

Control of and clarity on the growth of high rise buildings/private dorms downtown and in South U areas. Review and update plan and code requirements and their impact on historic districts and city infrastructure. When does the city/university exceed need for new housing, what is the need? Lost taxes from UM buying up land and property and new taxes from new high rise dorms, etc. What's the cost and the promise.

Get UMich to commit to a more meaningful ongoing communication with the City and its residents.

Improving meaningful and regular communication with UMich - so that UMich respects the people who live and work in this city - right now they seem to feel they are omnipotent and don't have to consult with the city. There should be regular public meetings between City Council, City Administrator and top level administrators at UMich.

Work with UM in a harmonious way and not be confrontational. AA is one of the most desirable places to live in USA because of the University- its generous policy to community; its intellectual, art, culture, sports resources, etc. AA needs to cooperate and take a positive attitude towards problem solving and not be a hindrance to UM. UM will move on and AA will be the loser. I think AA has not been fair to UM in negotiating the local transportation issues. Together they can do more to improve in, moving people around, public safety and pedestrian safety.

Support efforts to get the University to recognize its need to contribute to the infrastructure which supports the City of Ann Arbor.

If you could make one suggestion for your elected official to focus on during the next six months, what would it be?

Communication with the University regarding their plans.

Providing a budget that assures core public services are adequately funded. Charities and art and subsidizing the University of Michigan are not core city services. Another concern is the city has lost the public's trust in the misuse of taxes and diversion of funds from core city services.

Revenues -- with U-M owning more and more property, where will additional or replacement revenues come from. I support a (very) small income tax for the city.

I think that, given the UM's lack of consideration for the residents by buying up land, the city should institute an income tax which would hit the UM non-resident employees. AA residents should then get a tax credit (dollar for dollar) either for the income tax when paying property taxes or vice versa. Thus, the tax paying AA residents would see better services by making those working and earning money here pay for the fire, police protection and for the roads.

Lower taxes. less money for police, have U of M pay city taxes.

Go after tax revenues from U of M unused lands and challenge the U more, check on uncapping fraternities and sororities who pay tax rates from decades ago.

Reduce unnecessary spending and lower taxes for home owners. Investigate whether the University can pay a fair share of taxation, rather than continually remove properties from the tax rolls (I believe Brown University is paying a yearly rebate to the city for their use of city services and lack of taxation).

Getting police staffing levels at the appropriate place, i.e. more downtown / campus area patrols even bringing back the police on bikes in warmer weather.

Seeing the the fraternities/sororities maintain the garbage and debris near their homes.

General

An anonymous survey? Just kidding! I had fun doing it even though surveys are frustrating. Don't know what you will get from this... interested as ever. Good luck and good work ahead.

... Also, you let anyone fill out the survey but require folks to give a Ward 2 voting precinct. Ouch! And why wasn't this offered to all of A2 from the outset. It concerns me that the initiator of this survey is after personal gain and recognition rather than the good of the entire city.