



Naples Mayor & City Council Candidates Forum

*January 23rd
at St. John's Episcopal Church*

Moderated by Jeff Lytle





About GSAC:

During the 1980s the Gulf Shore Association of Condominiums (GSAC) was formed. For many years, it operated as an informal, loose-knit organization formed to discuss common problems, and hopefully to devise solutions. In 2001, GSAC was incorporated as a nonprofit corporation under Florida law. As stated in the Articles of Incorporation, its primary purposes were (i) to provide a forum for the member associations to exchange ideas concerning problems common to all members, and (ii) to ensure that our members have a readily identifiable voice on common issues affecting them and, where appropriate, to seek by joint action civic and governmental objectives.

In terms of civic objectives, working with the City we have in the last few years accomplished (a) the installation of new and more attractive crosswalks at the beach access points and at Park Shore and Harbour Drives, as well as the flashing caution signs at the Horizon Way crosswalk; (b) FPL's replacement of the street lights and upgrade of the wiring along GSBN; (c) a City revision of solid waste costs and storm water runoff fees reducing the allocation to our member associations; and (d) the reinstatement of the Manatee Slow Speed Zone in Venetian and Moorings Bays. We have also devoted significant effort to addressing the pedestrian safety issues caused by the deterioration of the seawall along Venetian Bay, coalescing community opposition to the County's proposed construction of a multi-story garage at Clam Pass, and investigating the underlying reasons for the recurrent power outages along GSBN, as well as the spread of algae along the beaches and in the Bay.

We have further expanded our mission to include efforts to inform or educate residents of our association members concerning matters of likely interest to them. For example, we have regularly sponsored pre-election forums at which City Council candidates respond to specific questions concerning subjects particularly applicable to GSBN residents, as well as informational forums on such matters as limiting exposure to cybercrime, and what residents should do if in the presence of an active shooter.

As we approach our fifth decade, the Gulf Shore Association of Condominiums has developed into both a formal and formidable force. It has grown to include nearly all the low-rise and high-rise buildings in the Moorings and Park Shore communities along both sides of Gulf Shore Blvd. North. GSAC now has over 70 members, constituting more than 4,400 residential dwelling units. We believe we live in one of the most beautiful communities in the Greater Naples area, and we are dedicated to doing everything possible to preserving and enhancing our community.

Learn more at www.GSACNaples.org



**Today's event is moderated by:
Jeff Lytle**

Jeff Lytle retired in 2014 after 35 years at the Naples Daily News. He served as editorial page editor and TV host for the last 25 of those years. He now freelances for three local magazines and volunteers with the Community Foundation of Collier County and other organizations. He and wife Susan now live at Palmira Golf & Country Club in Bonita.

Event Notes:

Candidate biographies are printed as submitted by the candidates. No edits have been made.

The candidates were presented with questions five days prior to the forum to research and prepare responses.

Important Election Dates:

Mark your calendar to vote:

Vote by Mail Ballots to be mailed
February 6th

You can still request Vote by Mail
Ballots through March 7th.

Early Voting: March 7-14th
Norris Center – 755 8th Avenue South,
Naples, FL 34103

Election Day: March 17th

Find your precinct:

<https://www.colliervotes.com/Find-My-Precinct>

Are you registered to vote or,
would you like to Vote by Mail?
Visit www.CollierVotes.com

Learn more about City of
Naples Candidates & Elections:
<https://www.naplesgov.com/cityclerk/page/20-20-general-election>

Bill Barnett

Running for City of Naples Mayor

CANDIDATE STATEMENT:

For 47 years, Barnett has been a resident of Naples and for 36 years, Barnett has dedicated his career to public service and protecting Naples' unique quality of life as the community has grown. He has also received national recognition for his leadership during times of crisis, most recently during the preparation and recovery following Hurricane Irma.



Under Mayor Bill Barnett's leadership, Naples has been recognized among the ***happiest and healthiest cities in the nation for four years running.*** Only Mayor Bill has the leadership and consensus building skills to take the city's Vision 2020 priorities and turn them into action:

- ***Protecting Naples' Quality of Life;***
- ***Cleaning up our beaches and waterways;***
- ***Getting smart capital infrastructure projects completed;***
- ***Improving bike and pedestrian walk-ability on safe streets;***
- ***Keeping Naples a green jewel.***

While raising his family in Naples, Mayor Bill has always led by example. He is currently serving on The Shelter for Abused Women & Children of Collier County's Board of Directors. Mayor Bill's leadership and service has been recognized repeatedly:

- ***Naples Daily News "Citizen of the Year"***
- ***National Recognition for his leadership in Hurricane Irma recovery***
- ***Gulfshore Life Magazine's "Top Men & Women of the Year"***
- ***Education Foundation Champions for Learning "Top Men of Distinction"***
- ***Legal Aid Service of Collier County "Champion Of Justice Award"***
- ***Naples Alliance for Children "Child Advocate of the Year"***

Notes:

www.BillBarnettforMayor.com

Teresa Heitmann

Running for City of Naples Mayor

CANDIDATE STATEMENT:

I am running for mayor because the City of Naples needs a representative that serves all neighborhoods, and goes beyond just listening to effectively address the citizens ideas and concerns on over-development, environment and storm water pollution, financial management, and ethics. It is time to plan, protect and preserve. My years of service to nonprofits, neighborhood associations and [state water management board] -- and my voting record on City Council from 2008-2016 -- prove my commitment and readiness to step up with the responsible leadership the City of Naples so desperately needs. Clearly, an alternative to "business as usual" is imperative. As your mayor, I will protect our investments in the City of Naples and our quality of life.



Notes:

Reg Buxton

Running for Naples City Council

CANDIDATE STATEMENT:

Lived in Naples for 33 years. International business consultant, advisor to Federal alphabet agencies. Publisher Community Newspaper(Scripts(NDN) Owner/Publisher “Life in Naples “ magazine



Community Service. Have served on/chaired many of the following. Red Cross , United Way , Naples Zoo , Baker Park Foundation , Baby Basic, David Lawrence Foundation , Equestrian Challenge , Hodges University , Citizen Corp , County Mitigation Board , Baskin Palmer Foundation , Property Advisory Board Spirit of 45 , S/W Florida Veterans Alliance , Freedom Memorial , Chair Collier County MPO , Florida State MPO Board of Governors, M Core Task Force,. Represent the Collier Business Community at County Emergency Operation Center during Disasters I make any decisions made that pertain to business’s in Collier County , Holocaust Museum , Abused Women’s Shelter, Collier Concerned Citizens . As a Civic Philanthropist I have provided One and a Half million dollars of space in “Life in Naples” magazine over the last 5 years .

Running for re-election because I haven’t finished what I started, Community Safety/Protection, Environment , Septic Tanks , Beaches , Oyster beds , Clean water , Reef’s ,keeping local business’s vital .

Notes:

Michelle McLeod



Running for Naples City Council

CANDIDATE STATEMENT:

My name is Michelle McLeod and I am running for re-election to the Naples City Council. I am a third-generation Floridian, raised in Fort Myers. After high school, I attended Saint Mary's College in Notre Dame, Indiana. Upon graduation, I started a career in the hotel industry which I enjoyed for over 20 years. Then in the early 2000s, I attended graduate school at Florida Gulf Coast University and earned a master's degree in business administration. From there, I began a new career in banking where I worked as a vice president for a large, family-controlled bank.

Throughout the decades, my community service work has been extensive with various organizations like United Way, Humane Society, Grace Place, Habitat for Humanity and many others. With so much vested in this community where I have lived and worked in for most of my life, I maintain a strong desire to be a part of the decisions that affect our city. In these last four years, I have been instrumental in helping to achieve significant accomplishments for the city. I would be honored to continue my service on the city council to help direct the significant work that lies ahead.

For details on my community vision, visit my website... www.mcleodforcouncil.com

Notes:

Ellen Seigel

Running for Naples City Council



CANDIDATE STATEMENT:

Background:

My husband Art and I retired full-time to Naples in 2004 after having vacationed in Naples since the late 1970s. We have seen the dramatic growth and change in Naples over the years. During my professional career, I held various management positions with three different health maintenance organizations in Connecticut for almost 30 years. This experience gave me analytical, financial and management skills.

Naples Community Service:

Naples City Council: 2016- Present

Chair, Community Redevelopment Agency: 2016 - Present

Chair, General Employees Pension Board: 2016 - Present

Trustee, Firefighters Pension Board: 2016 - Present

City of Naples Planning Advisory Board: 2014-2016

The Park Shore Fund: Founder; Leadership Team Member 2014 - Present

Park Shore Association Board of Directors: President 2011-2014 & Membership Chair 2008-2011;

Devils Lake Association: Secretary/Treasurer 2006-2014

Why I am running for office:

As a member of Naples City Council, I am in a position to help residents with problems and this is what means the most to me. I believe that members of City Council should be highly regarded and I have accomplished that in my first term. I am independent (and proud of my voting record), very hard working, analytical and professional. I love what I am doing and hope to continue serving the residents of Naples for another term.

Notes:

Ted Blankenship

Running for Naples City Council

CANDIDATE STATEMENT:

Ted and his family have lived in Naples since 2011. He has over 30 years of experience in business serving large multinational corporations. Ted has been the Chief Financial Officer of three different companies in the technology, education and business services industries. He is a Certified Public Accountant and is a retired partner with PricewaterhouseCoopers. He has lived and worked in multiple cities in the US as well as in Zurich, Switzerland and London, England.



Ted is an Eagle Scout and serves with various not for profit charitable organizations including the Naples Community Services Advisory Board, Moorings Property Owners Association Board of Governors, Youth 4 Orphans Board, and Gulf Coast Runners Board. He is also the cross-country coach for First Baptist Academy and youth track coach for Gulf Coast Runners.

Ted is running for Naples City Council to

- 1) preserve the distinctive charm of Naples,
- 2) clean and protect our beaches and waters with urgency, and
- 3) ensure financial conservatism and transparency.

More information on his background and ideas for the top priorities for Naples can be found at www.TedBlankenshipforNaples.com.

Notes:

Mike McCabe

Running for Naples City Council



CANDIDATE STATEMENT:

I am running to provide a voice for the residents. There is, particularly in some areas of town, an inequitable balance between commercial interests and resident values. Over development has weakened our infrastructure, quality of life, and environment. County growth exacerbates this. This is evidenced by the Clam Pass garage initiative. All the residents across our City must have a voice in their government and the future planning of our city to ensure we protect and preserve our values.

My key priorities are: Responsible Development, Environmental Stewardship, Fiscal Responsibility, Transparency and Leadership.

My key qualifications are:

Extensive leadership roles at the executive level inclusive of a Fortune 100 company. With expertise in change management, process re-engineering and building teams and consensus to affect strategic goals. I am a full-time resident of Coquina Sands. I serve on the board of Coquina Sands HOA. I am the President of my condominium association.

I give back to my community:

Through my volunteering at Golden PAWS to improve the lives of our veterans and children with life altering disabilities. One of my proudest days was to hand off a Golden Retriever service dog I trained for two years to change the life of a Veteran in need.

I love this town and want to be a part of the solutions that will preserve the charm, character and environment of the city we know.

Please visit my website: www.mikemccabe4naples.com

Notes:

Paul Perry

Running for Naples City Council



CANDIDATE STATEMENT:

I practiced law, mostly real estate related, for 39 years in Ohio, Tennessee, and Michigan (as well as in Federal Courts in Kentucky, Minnesota, and Indiana). My wife and I first came to Naples in 1999. We first bought a house in Naples in 2008 and demolished and rebuilt that home from 2014 to 2016. We have been permanent full-time Naples residents since May 2016. Since moving to Naples full-time I became quite active in the Aqualane Shores Association, joining the board in early 2017 and serving as president since February 2018. I also went through Greater Naples Leadership (“GNL”), graduating in March 2019. During my term as president, I was an active participant on the Presidents Council and spent a lot of time with the Planning Advisory Board working on the updated Naples Vision Plan.

I am running for City Council for several reasons. The Council needs a lawyer with a broad real estate background who can press for answers to questions that otherwise may go unnoticed. And, our lakes need an advocate who can and will focus the City’s resources on lake clean-up and remediation as an extremely high priority.

Notes:
