

2020

IMAGINE DAYTON

Candidate Questionnaire

Return no later than Friday, October, 16, 2020, 12:00 pm.

NAME: Heidi Muller Hoover, J.D.

CANDIDATE FOR POSITION OF: Dayton Town Council

ABOUT YOU:

(200 words or less)

Tell citizens what you believe are the most important details about yourself.

I moved to the Valley in 2006 from southwestern Virginia to attend college at Eastern Mennonite University where I majored in History & Social Sciences. I fell in love with this beautiful area and the strong sense of community I felt here. In 2012 I left for three years to attend law school at Wake Forest University in North Carolina but always planned to return to a place that had become my home. My spouse and I have lived in Dayton for over four years with our border collie mix Daisy and appreciate the small-town atmosphere and mix of small businesses, educational institutions, and old homes and new.

WHY ARE YOU SEEKING ELECTION?

(200 words or less)

In 2019 I was appointed to the Dayton Planning Commission and have enjoyed serving my community as well as learning more about how small towns are governed. We have a wonderful group of people who serve and lead here in Dayton and I am excited to join them as a member of town council.

HOW WILL YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

(100 words or less)

It is important to have a broad range of people represented on town council to ensure that we are listening to all facets of our community. I hope that I can bring my own perspective as well as be an accessible representative for any member of our community who hopes to have their voice heard.

WHAT IS YOUR VISION FOR DAYTON?

(100 words or less)

Dayton is already a wonderful community; it's why my spouse and I chose to live here. I would love to see Dayton become more than a suburb of Harrisonburg and be a destination for tourists as well as new residents who also appreciate our area. My hope is that everyone who lives in Dayton, the teachers,

doctors, poultry workers etc, feel at home here and a sense of connection to their neighbors and their community.

BEST THING:

(100 words or less)

What is the best thing that has happened to Dayton in the last five years?

The new leadership that we have been able to attract to help our town run smoothly has been one of the best things to happen to Dayton recently. Without this leadership I don't know that we would be seeing the improvements to Dayton such as investment in infrastructure as well as solid documentation and planning that encourages transparency.

WORST THING:

(100 words or less)

What is the worst thing that has happened to Dayton in the last five years?

While 2020 has not been a great year for most, I do worry about the lasting impacts of Covid-19 on small towns in particular. Our small businesses downtown as well as those in the Dayton Market have been hit hard as people shift to even more online shopping. Many of our residents have lost jobs or are now trying to juggle working from home while our children and teachers are trying their best at virtual learning. It will take all of us coming together to figure out the best way forward and how to ensure that people feel connected while staying safe.

MOST IMPORTANT THING:

(100 words or less)

What is the single most important thing for Dayton to accomplish in the next five years?

The updates to our infrastructure are projects that are necessary and will ensure that Dayton thrives in the coming years. Too often the infrastructure of a small town can be forgotten as other shinier projects take precedence. Making sure that all of our residents have access to clean drinking water, affordable electric, and fast broadband internet will set Dayton up for a successful future in which we can respond to challenges instead of reacting to them.

CHANGE:

(100 words or less)

What would you change about Dayton, if you could?

As some of the other candidates have mentioned, many of us are trying to get out of our homes more since Covid-19 hit. Having a walkable town that has well maintained sidewalks connecting communities is one change that I think would improve our town greatly. I love to see my neighbors out walking with their children and pets and it fosters a sense that we live in a safe and well cared for community.

Please sign and date your submission and return by October 16, 12:00 pm to:

EMAIL: clyon@silverlakemill.com

U.S. MAIL: Cheryl Lyon, 2328 Silver Lake Road, Dayton, VA 22821

SIGNATURE *Heidi A. Lyon* Date 10/10/20