

COGS Candidate Questionnaire

Instructions: Please fill out the information requested and return it by **May 4, 2020** via email to: **cogspc1@gmail.com**. Upon receipt of your completed questionnaire, you may be contacted to schedule an appointment for an interview with the COGS Political Committee.

Your complete and unedited responses will be posted on the informational COGS website for public review, along with those of the other candidates. Please keep your answers brief. However, if you need more space the box will expand to accommodate you. If needed, please continue on an additional page.

No.	Question	Response
1.	Demographics	
1.a.	Name	Guy Phillips
1.b.	Address	7131 E Cholla St
1.c.	Phone	480-560-6124
1.d.	Years in Scottsdale	25
1.e.	When did you register to vote in Scottsdale? Have you failed to vote in any Scottsdale or General Election since you registered?	25 years ago.
1.f.	Have you been elected or appointed to City positions including City Task Forces, Boards, Committees or Commissions? If so, please list.	City Council Westworld subcommittee Experience Scottsdale board member Parada Del Sol board member Tbird2 board member Chaired Bond Subcommittee Board of Appeals
1.g.	Please list any Civic Activities or organizations you belong to.	Used to belong to COGS but don't know if Im up to date with membership Friends of Civic Center Library
1.h.	Education/Training	2 yeas vocational training at Maricopa community college 2years apprenticeship sheet metal workers union#359
1.i.	Current Occupation or Pre-Retirement	Owner Budget Mechanical Air Conditioning
1.j.	Other personal information that you would like to share:	Rebuilding musclecars, collecting coins, writing
2.	Campaign Information	
2.a.	Address	7131 E cholla St Scottsdale 85254
2.b.	Phone	480-560-6124
2.c.	Fax	

COGS Candidate Questionnaire

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2.d.	Web-site address	Electguyphilips.Com
2.e.	E-Mail address	Phillips4council@gmail.com
2.f	Endorsements	Havent asked for any yet
3.	Why have you decided to become a candidate for City Council?	Currently running for third term
4.a	Identify 3 major issues facing the Council.	Developer influence, staff complacency and acquiesce and dept transparency
4.b	Identify 3 major issues facing the City.	Over development, traffic and bureaucracy
5.	If elected, what would you like to accomplish?	Always working towards open honest dialogue and transparency from staff, a comprehensive General Plan to deal objectively with growth towards buildout and personally to see the completion of the Civic Center mall and the Indian Bend wash bond improvements south of Thomas.
6.	Are there matters that may come before the City Council in which you would have a Conflict of Interest? If yes, what would the conflicting issues be?	X No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
7.	Identify citizen/city processes that you believe need to be:	
7.a.	Created	The General Plan 2035 is foremost so the residents and stakeholders of Scottsdale have a clear objective and plan towards buildout in 2050.
7.b.	Improved	Council/Mayor/staff relations. Time and time again staff puts forward objectives without consulting staff and we get the fallout. The mayor position also leaves the council in the dark about upcoming issues. Staff to citizen information needs to be expanded beyond merely what is expected. Posting notices of hearings after the hearing does no one any good.

COGS Candidate Questionnaire

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7.c.	Reduced	The only process I can see needing reduction is at the one stop shop with submittals from residents for small projects that they are put through the fire to get approved
7.d.	Eliminated	
8.	Please state your position and/or action on the following zoning and land use issues:	
8.a	What is your position on citywide rezoning requests, text amendments, and General Plan Amendments that significantly change land use or increase height and/or density, especially in proximity to low-scale residential neighborhoods?	Anyone is allowed to request a rezoning or text amendment. It is then up to staff to identify the positive and negative aspects of each request and put forth to council for consideration, along with outreach to affected parties. Right now not only does staff not consult or confer with council but they work with the applicant to HELP them. That is not their job. Only a stronger General Plan that allows the use of majority voting can slow this down.
8b	<p>Typically, zoning entitlements are granted based on a promise to build to a specified development plan, with defined stipulations, that presumably provides some benefit to the city. Once granted, if the property is sold, the new owner does not have to build what was originally promised in exchange for the entitlements.</p> <p>Would you support conditioning zoning change approvals on building exactly what was promised, and if it wasn't, the zoning would revert back to the original restrictions?</p> <p>If not, how would you hold the property owner, and any subsequent owners, to the plan promised in order to get the change?</p>	Yes, I have tried to get this done in the past but couldn't get the four votes needed. The city of Queen Creek has conditional zoning and so can we.

COGS Candidate Questionnaire

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8.c	<p>Recently, Scottsdale Fashion Square redevelopment was granted significant increases in height, without the location(s) for the height increase being identified.</p> <p>What is your opinion of this type of open-ended provision?</p> <p>Scottsdale Fashion Square contributes about \$13 million and 7% of the sales tax collected in Scottsdale.</p> <p>What are your recommendations to maintain SFS's viability and tax revenue stream?</p>	<p>The height increases were set within the parameters of the project area.</p> <p>Fashion Square, like all malls across the county, is falling victim of the online marketing. While Fashion Square has bucked the trends and stayed a shopping destination, they knew they would have to diversify to continue to make a profit, so they asked the city to allow for office , residential and hotel to pad their expenses. They also knew it would have to be first class to bring the affluent visitors so the new projects in the Fashion Square property are top notch and will serve to increase tourism and sales which also benefits Scottsdales coffers. What we are seeing is the evolution of a business model, from a small open air mall to the mall complex that is currently underway.</p>
8.d	<p>In "The Outpost" project, rezoning case, rural land was rezoned to commercial adjacent to resident large lot rural lands, against staff recommendations, breaking with a longstanding policy prohibiting such rezoning.</p> <p>What impact do you believe this action had and will on similar future rezoning cases?</p>	<p>I voted against the outpost and while it still hasn't come to fruition my worry was that like the previous question about conditional zoning, this property could be resold and any gas company could come and put a superpumper there. I have recently received a notice that it has submitted an application but regardless the was a sweetheart deal from staff and council to their friend and I see no benefit to the area except more traffic and more commercial use in the future.</p>
8.e.	<p>What is your position on the prompt and precise enforcement of the conditions and stipulations prescribed in a Conditional Use Permit?</p> <p>What is your position on the revocation of a Conditional Use Permit whose holder was not in compliance with all major CUP conditions and stipulations that negatively impact neighbors?</p>	<p>We have never revoked a CUP nor have we enforced one. We are right now dealing with one from a car repair shop in south Scottsdale.</p> <p>The only way business will pay attention and be a good player is to enforce the CUP. This unfortunately comes back to 4 votes form council.</p>
8.f.	<p>Identify any impacts (good and bad) upon the city with the addition of numerous multi-family/apartment complexes citywide and the continued rezoning of single-family parcels into multi-family parcels.</p> <p>How do you think the changing demographics of our residents will impact future demand for housing types?</p> <p>How will it impact what you believe the majority of residents want their city to be?</p>	<p>This is a self fulfilling prophecy. As we redevelop single family to multifamily those moving here will perpetuate even more multifamily.</p> <p>There are of course a lot of variables and no easy answer but I believe too much multifamily reduces the character and quality of life, increases traffic, increases crime and reduces property values in the area.</p> <p>Some multifamily in high rent areas are workable but to replace single family with multifamily is not good for the city. I believe in the family neighborhood and don't want to see it destroyed by multifamily development nor by STR's or other home based businesses in neighborhoods.</p>

COGS Candidate Questionnaire

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8.g.	<p>Would you support a designated Entertainment District with its own unique Noise and Event Ordinances?</p> <p>What should be done to protect adjacent neighborhoods?</p>	<p>I have supported a designated Entertainment district so that we can define what is allowed and what is expected, like you say, its own noise and event ordinance. Again, need four votes.</p> <p>If this was the case, we could put in specific ordinances for sound, traffic and lighting to ease problems with neighborhoods.</p>
8.h.	<p>Scottsdale is currently reviewing the existing noise ordinance. What changes, if any, would you recommend to the existing allowable noise levels and ordinance?</p>	<p>We need to lower the Decibel level from 68 to 52 and find a measuring device for bass as well.</p>
8.i	<p>Currently, all rural land parcels, regardless of size are in a single category of "Rural", allowing a five-acre zoning to be rezoned to one-acre parcels with only a Minor General Plan Amendment (simply majority of council needed).</p> <p>Do you support a change to the General Plan Update to create the 2 Rural zoning categories-</p> <p>1] parcels of 1 to less than 5 acres</p> <p>2] parcels of 5 acres or more,</p> <p>requiring a MAJOR General Plan Amendment and super majority vote to subdivide a 5 acre or greater parcel? Why or why not?</p>	<p>Yes, I voted for this during the last General Plan update but couldn't get the four votes so we compromised by just adding the state requirements and kicked the can down the road.</p>
9.	<p>There are not enough Preserve tax funds remaining to allow acquisition of all the remaining land within the voter approved McDowell Sonoran Preserve Boundary.</p> <p>Should the city council determine if citizens want to complete the Preserve and if so how to pay for it?</p> <p>If not, how do you propose utilizing the remaining and future dedicated Preserve funds?</p>	<p>I think we should pursue the remaining parcel along Pima Road. The other two postage stamp parcels have increased pricing by the state which allowed us to purchase other land at a reduced price, so we will not get those two. I would like to see the remaining funds go into an endowment to sustain the Preserve in perpetuity but if that needs to go to the voters I'm fine with that. Its their land paid for with their taxes.</p>

COGS Candidate Questionnaire

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10.	<p>Please state your position and/or action on the General Plan: As above, we need to finish it with the suggestions you put forth and also a comprehensive plan for buildout which needs to take into consideration population, traffic and access, density and future quality of life.</p>	
10.a	<p>What is your vision for the city?</p> <p>What should Scottsdale look like in 10, 20, or 30 years from now?</p>	<p>I ran for council to help this city in any manner I could. People with a vision for Scottsdale create a city to their expectations and liking which may not be what the people want. I don't want to force my opinions on anyone. I want to help the people with their expectations. I am confident though, that the peoples expectations do not include massive height, density and bumper to bumper traffic.</p>
10.b	<p>How should the city grow to remain desirable and become and remain sustainable?</p>	<p>I feel keeping height and density to its lowest denominator, keeping public safety our number 1 priority, providing the best in education and keeping, encouraging and continuing tourism to keep our taxes low will keep Scottsdale a desirable place to live and raise a family.</p>
10.c	<p>Scottsdale voters have not approved an updated General Plan since 2001.</p> <p>Why do you believe the prior updates have failed?</p>	<p>That's simple. The developer friendly councilmembers vote to keep out anything that could possibly hinder development.</p>
10.d	<p>The city council, in a study session, shelved the Citizens' Task Force 2012-2014 draft update and did not submit it to the voters.</p> <p>They approved the 2001 GP plus the required AZ state elements without a public vote to be used during a new draft 2035 attempt.</p> <p>In 2020 one member from specific city council-appointed boards and commissions were selected for a General Plan Review Committee who are meeting online.</p> <p>What recommendation do you have for the success of this 2035 final draft? What do you project will be its weaknesses?</p>	<p>Like the study session, it will again boil down to more restrictive development requirements and until you get four council members to vote yes it will never happen. Sorry, just stating the facts.</p>
11.	<p>Please state your position and/or action on the following finance issues:</p>	

COGS Candidate Questionnaire

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11.a	<p>The COVID-19 pandemic has taken a severe toll on Scottsdale's finances, businesses, and tourism industry. While an exact dollar figure is not yet available, we know it is in the millions.</p> <p>What ideas do you have to:</p> <p>1] restructure the city budget with respect to budget cuts or other financial stop gaps?</p> <p>2] revive our economy, business, and tourism amidst pandemic fears?</p> <p>3] support small businesses as they struggle to re-open?</p> <p>4] create a sustainable budget?</p>	<p>I requested the city maintain a flat budget this year. With windfall tourism dollars coming in before the covid, we were up \$12 million in revenue. That coupled with over 60 million in the in reserved fund balance and \$60 million in Contingency funds I believe we can weather this storm without any reduction in city services. Of course this all depends on the extent the state is closed down. The longer this happens the more damage to the economy we will have. I have helped support small business by contacting those who submitted to help with their applications. I also work with an online site called Scottsdale Open For Business so people can see who is open. I emphasize local businesses as the larger stores have a better ability to stay afloat. My heart goes out to all those business owners and their employees and I hope and pray they will make it through. While I advocate opening as soon as possible we still have to be cautious and respect those most vulnerable. The economic recession of 2008 has taught us that when things are good that's the time to save, and I feel our city manager has done a good of that and Scottsdale should come out okay. That is my message to Scottsdale residents and businesses- hang on and stay the course and we will get through this.</p>
11.b	<p>Do you support using taxpayer funds to subsidize or enter private-public partnerships for private sector investments such as buildings, stadiums, promoted events, etc.?</p>	<p>Only if there is substantial taxpayer benefit. I think most residents in Scottsdale understand we are a tourism Mecca and sometimes it costs the city money to produce and bring big events. The Giants stadium and the Charros is a good example of a public private partnership that has exceeded expectations over the years.</p>
11.c	<p>At present, the City has awarded multimillion-dollar contracts to the Scottsdale Cultural Council and Experience Scottsdale without going through a bid process.</p> <p>Are you for or against continuing this practice and why?</p>	<p>I will continue to support these two until another can come along and offer a better product at a better price. I don't look at it as awarded, but as a business partnership. As long as they bring in more benefit that the monetary contract we have with them it is a win for Scottsdale. Scottsdale Arts and Experience Scottsdale both have proven metrics that Scottsdale receives 3-4 times the value of what we give them monetarily. I am not saying they are perfect, but there arent very many businesses that can perform at this level and that's why we don't get any bids. If others come and can show us (me) a better value I will advocate for them.</p> <p>Before this virus I have had many talks with Gerd Wusterman and he understands that Scottsdale Arts needs to wean itself off city funding but that takes time and commitments. Now with this virus and shutdown donations are drying up and puts everyone in a tough position on how to cut back and where. Scottsdale needs the arts for our cache so some tough decisions lay ahead.</p>
12.	<p>Please state your position and/or action on the following transportation questions:</p>	

COGS Candidate Questionnaire

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12.a	<p>What solutions would you have for the current traffic congestion problems occurring throughout the City (types of mass transit, traffic control devices, etc.)?</p>	<p>The city manager is currently working to increase trolleys and routes and reducing phx transit. I agree with this approach. I am not a traffic expert but I seems the old timed lighting worked better than the sophisticated traffic sensors we use now. Also if we had more parking downtown there would be less traffic as most of it is people circling around looking for a parking spot! Seriously our problem is we are 30 miles long and only 3 miles wide so there a few available lanes to drive in which makes our traffic look worse than it is.</p> <p>I do not believe in mass transit and I think it would signal the death knoll for downtown.</p>
12.b	<p>Within the Downtown area, the city has charged in-lieu parking fees when a developer had not provided enough real parking spaces. These phantom spaces have been used repeatedly instead of actual parking availability. It was generally assumed these fees would be used at some point to build a parking facility. However, that apparently was not the case, as the city cannot account for these funds as they were not placed into a separate budget line or fund.</p> <p>How do you propose to deal with Downtown parking issues and the use of in-lieu parking fees?</p>	<p>Actually the city did use that money to build a parking garage on third street. However, the in lieu no longer works because cost have gone up considerably while the in lieu fees have not. I have worked with the city manager to raise the in lieu price from \$7000 a space to \$35,000 a space. That's what other cities charge. We also approve a bond that allows us to build more parking downtown. We just need the council to get on board with it.</p>
13.	<p>Please state your position and/or action on the following questions:</p>	
13.a	<p>What steps would improve Public Safety to reduce impaired driver/pedestrian traffic deaths in our downtown?</p>	<p>Lower speed limit for sure. 25 is a lot safer than 40. We also need to eliminate crosswalks where there are no traffic lights or add HAWK light to those spots. Better lighting at night would also help and is part of our downtown streetscaping project,</p>
13.b	<p>Residents citywide have expressed concern about the lack of responsiveness or fine enforcements by of the Code Enforcement department.</p> <p>How would you improve this situation? I am not a bureaucrat but that dept needs more help.</p>	
13.c	<p>Do you believe that the mindset of your supporters and contributors is representative of Scottsdale residents' values and vision?</p> <p>If so, why?</p> <p>If not, why?</p>	<p>Yes because most of my donations are from residents and have told me to continue doing what I do. As I said earlier, Im not trying to push my vision of whats best for Scottsdale but to be an advocate for our residents and businesses and try to do what they are looking for in a city.</p>
14.	<p>Identify city services that you believe need to be:</p>	

COGS Candidate Questionnaire

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14.a	Created	Im not looking to create any new service, especially one that involves new FTE's and more payroll..
14.b	Improved	Every city service can be improved somehow but traffic and capital projects really need oversight. A Capital Projects Oversight Commission could be a good way to do that.
14.c	Reduced	I also don't hear anyone asking to reduce a service. I suppose phx transit is a big expense that under delivers so that could be reduced.
14.d	Eliminated	I don't know of any that need to be eliminated either. I think we have grown to expect the services we now have.
15	Identify city revenue sources that should be:	
15.a	Created	I am an advocate for tourism as they keep our taxes low so creating events will not only bring more tourists but they will bring more dollars as well.
15.b	Increased	I do not advocate raising taxes or fees from any city revenue sources.
15.c	Reduced	I did not vote to put in the stormwater fee as it's a burden to the fixed income and every year we raise it more. That should be reduced or eliminated.
15.d	Eliminated	Stormwater fee.
16.	Is there anything in your background that you would not like publicized on the front page of local newspapers?	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes (If yes, please explain) My high school graduation picture!
17.	Additional Comments:	Thank you for your time. I hope I have answered all your questions to your satisfaction. I cant be all things to all people but I try!

Signature _____ guy phillips _____

_____ Date 4/28/2020 _____

Please type your name for your electronic signature.

Thank you for your time and careful consideration of each response.

Please email your completed questionnaire by May 4, 2020 to: cogspc1@gmail.com

ALL completed candidate's questionnaires will be posted on the COGS website at www.cogsaz.net