



Combined Answers:

1. What are the biggest items facing the city in the next decade?

Ted Blankenship:

Protecting our beaches and waters – for instance through better storm water management and better coordination with the county on joint projects (e.g., the Golden Gate Canal)

Managing growth within the city at a moderate sustainable rate and handling the impacts from the expected tremendous growth in the county

Being fiscally conservative to find the funding to invest in the infrastructure needed for these items without increasing taxes or debt and to ensure we have sufficient reserves for future storms or other emergencies

Christman, Raymond R.

1) Managing growth and development in a way that prioritizes our residential quality and character. We need to preserve, improve and protect the charm, character and identity of Naples.

2) Protecting our environment, particularly our beaches and waterways, from decline and neglect. This particularly requires a new sense of urgency in implementing our new Storm Water Management Master Plan.

George Dondanville:

WATER QUALITY- We must continue our efforts to clean up Naples Bay, Rookery Bay and the near shore waters of the Gulf.

TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE- We must continue our efforts of shared usage of our roads and streets . And create even more opportunities for folks to move about walking and biking.

REDEVELOPMENT- As the City re-develops in both residential and commercial we must seek that difficult balance between the competing interests all the while maintaining green space .This all can be found in the proper application of our codes and regulations..

Bill Moss:

Maintaining the unique charm and ambiance that have fostered nation and world-wide acclaim.

Ensuring a viable business climate for small and mid-size business with adequate and affordable space, and a more diversified economy. Beach access and parking as Collier County continues to increase in population. Continued pro-active efforts to improve quality of stormwater to reduce nutrient and metal loads to waterways and the Gulf. Transportation, including multi-modal options for vehicles, pedestrians, and bicyclists. At the same time, utility fees, building fees, and the tax millage rate should be among the lowest in the region.

2. Where do you see the city going in the next 10 years?

Ted Blankenship:

Enhancing the city's vision and image to remain a special place with big city amenities in a small town atmosphere

Becoming more customer focused through training and feedback mechanisms
Being a leader in getting various government agencies at the federal, state and local levels to coordinate solutions to the water issues in south Florida
Better coordinating with the county to resolve issues that affect us all – such as infrastructure, workforce housing, and storm water management

Christman, Raymond R.

Naples is at a crossroads today. If we want to preserve, improve and protect the wonderful attributes and quality of life that we have created in Naples over many decades, we need to have a more balanced approach to managing commercial and residential interests and we need to face our water problems with a sense of urgency. How we address these issues will determine whether the city improves or declines in the next ten years.

George Dondanville:

I see the City moving Forward

By that I mean that the City of Naples maintains its status as a safe , healthy and vibrant place to live , work , raise a family or retire. And that Naples continues to be just that into the future for decades and decades.

Bill Moss:

All that I see is positive, providing the citizens continue to support cultural, religious, and educational institutions, embrace development and redevelopment that is reasonable and responsible while maintaining the ambiance created by closely following redevelopment plans. Municipal services will remain highly effective, projects will be responsive to expectations, and trees, landscaping, cleanliness, beach renourishment, and timely dredging of passes will be attained.

3. What do you think are the biggest issues currently facing the city?

Ted Blankenship:

Cleaning up and protecting our beaches and waters
Improving infrastructure to handle current traffic and storm water issues and preparing for the above mentioned growth
Developing more efficient processes

Christman, Raymond R.

The biggest issues are how we manage growth and development and how effectively we address our storm water management and related problems. In addition, the city needs to do better in planning and budgeting for major public projects like Baker Park and providing city services in a responsive, customer-centric fashion.

George Dondanville:

Defining what our Vision of the City is going forward.

Enhancing and defining our relationship with the County staff and our county's elected officials, and also with the State of Florida.

We need to do both of these things so we can more properly address the matters set forth in my answer to Question #1

Bill Moss:

Land development issues will continue to require a majority of time by City Council as they attempt to

resolve issues related to multi-family and commercial development and redevelopment. Water quality improvements will continue as an issue as will the need engage other agencies (federal, state, counties, water management districts, and environmental agencies to work toward common goals and solutions. Encouraging citizens collaboration for projects and programs to ensure that each are aligned with citizen expectations. Beach renourishment will continue to be an issue because of the cost and sea-level rise. Parking in the commercial districts, including the D-Downtown area is and will continue to be a challenge, especially during the many special events scheduled during the “season”.

4. What items in the code do you think are worth review for potential changes?

Ted Blankenship:

We should conduct a comprehensive review to determine the real reasons for so many variances and deviations and determine how the code can best be updated to reduce exceptions greatly in the future and ensure that all citizens are getting fair and equal treatment; Customer/citizen and builder/developer surveys should also be used to identify key areas for improvement

Christman, Raymond R.

The current city zoning and other related land development codes have specific requirements around height, density, set-backs, maximum lot coverage and other matters. For the most part, these standards are appropriate and some are built into the city charter. We do not need to revise them, we need to enforce them consistently and properly.

While the granting of variances and deviations are appropriate in many circumstances as part of the land development process (particularly for single family houses and smaller projects), the wholesale granting of numerous variance for larger commercial projects has led to over-development and too much densification in our commercial corridors.

George Dondanville:

Some have been around for 40- 50 years and some others have been around for 20. The City staff and Planning Board are currently in the process of addressing those . Council must diligently push for the completion of that process so as to arrive at a set of ordinances that address growth and development all the while maintaining a safe and livable City.

Bill Moss:

Procedures for development review and approval. Greater authority could be granted to city staff and the Planning Advisory Board rather than City Council to reduce the time and expense of development review and approval. The sign code is due for a major review, as are many of the codes adopted decades ago that may no longer be as relevant.

5. What solutions would you suggest for improving traffic congestion?

Ted Blankenship:

Improved signaling and signage

Use of specialized software to model and improve traffic flow

More safe bike routes and sidewalks

Encourage the county to build beach parking north of Naples (e.g., closer to Delnor-Wiggins State Park) to redirect beach traffic from the city

Christman, Raymond R.

Traffic congestion on Route 41 can be improved by use of new controller technology that can better coordinate the timing of traffic signals and facilitate traffic flow. This needs to be a joint county-city effort to have an impact in Naples.

Within the city itself, there are steps that can be taken on our arterial streets to consider “complete street” approaches (providing bike lanes, roundabouts, etc) that can facilitate better traffic flow. Also, we can expand use of shared ride and other private transportation services to shuttle people short distances to their destinations.

We should not consider implementation of a “road diet” (reduction in lanes) on Rt 41.

George Dondanville:

Develop more shared usage to allow more walking and bicycle trips to eliminate some car trips.

Use other well tested methods of moving people from point A to B within the City. Much of congestion comes from cars coming into the City., so methods that have many of those cars park outside the City and then be transported in larger groups to their destinations would help to solve that problem. Need to work cooperatively with County and possibly State to make that happen.

Bill Moss:

Last year the City of Naples received a comprehensive mobility study that explored options to improve traffic conditions. The study was limited to the corporate limits of the City and slightly beyond. While recommendations including a “road diet” on U.S. 41, the decision was made to maintain the existing lanes. Improvements to improve traffic conditions in the city should consider multi-model options, additional traffic signals at 1st Ave S. for pedestrian safety, 5th Ave N. to improve east-west traffic movement, better timing for traffic signalization, live monitoring of traffic conditions to allow changes in signal timing, improvements to the intersection at U.S. 41 and Goodlette-Frank Road, and additional south-bound turning movements from U.S. 41.

6. What processes in the city would you try to improve?**Ted Blankenship:**

Budgeting and gaining public input on the budget so that more people understand and agree upon the priorities and so that resources can be redirected to the best use

Conducting customer surveys so that city departments that interact with the public can gain feedback and implement continuous improvement processes to enable the key functions to be more customer focused; for instance I understand from many people and personally (when we had to replace our roof after Irma) that the permitting process takes a long time and can be confusing and frustrating – a review or audit of the city processes plus customer feedback should identify ways to streamline the permitting processes to make it more efficient and timely

Christman, Raymond R.

Our city government does not have a culture that values and emphasizes planning. This has been a weakness for the last decade, with planning for land use, streets, storm water, parks and other key areas carried out in a fragmented or incomplete way.

The City also needs to use its advisory boards (CRAAB, PAB, Design Review board, etc) more effectively, which can reduce redundancy in discussing items at City Council meetings. Finally, the City needs to enforce its zoning and other land use ordinances – if exceptions are being recommended, they should be clearly explained and justified.

George Dondanville:

City government needs to reach final decisions in a shorter time frame. That takes more stream lined processes , cleaner , ordinances, and regulations , But more over includes Trust throughout the process. From Trust come better resolutions not only at Council level but throughout the advisory **process and at** the face to face encounters between the citizens and staff. . All in all things could run quicker and smoother within the governmental process which could also create cost savings

Bill Moss:

Development review and approval. Approval of remodel of historic structures should be granted to the Planning Advisory Board and staff. Building permitting should continue to improve through electronic permit review and approval by all relevant city departments, with timely and effective inspections

7. What skills do you bring that make you qualified to be a council member?**Ted Blankenship:**

Financial expertise from over 30 years of business experience in three different Chief Financial Officer roles (in technology, education and business services) and as a CPA, including:

Financial planning and analysis

Detailed budgeting and resource allocation – both operational and capital

Strategic planning

Incentive planning and measurement

Auditing

Six Sigma process improvement

Risk management

Utilization of technology to make processes more effective and to reduce costs

Listening to and collaboration with diverse stakeholders to solve problems

Transparent and open communication

Dedication and commitment

Fresh perspectives

Independent, balanced viewpoint not hindered by positions taken on past issues

Christman, Raymond R.

1)My professional credentials which are relevant to the issues facing Naples today -- I have an undergraduate degree in Business and a Masters degree in City Planning. My career has spent working in City Planning and urban development in Pittsburgh; in banking in Pittsburgh and Atlanta; and in water and land conservation throughout Florida and the southeast U.S.

2)My independence – my first priority will be with the residents of Naples and their views and needs. I understand the need to balance economic, community and environmental interests.

3)Council needs members that bring policy- making and strategic planning leadership, judgment and experience. I don't need to learn how to do this. This is how I have spent my career for the past 30 years. The operational side of city government is the responsibility of the city manager and staff. Naples city council needs leadership to deal with the issues of tomorrow.

George Dondanville:

My nearly 4 decades of full time residency in the City of Naples have allowed me to work collectively and in several cases lead fellow City residents as well as County residents to solve numerous issues regarding the safety and well being of the community..I have sat on and chaired advisory boards at both the

County and in City of Naples where important changes in the direction of policy was implemented.. I have also worked collaboratively to create further educational opportunities to local active

Bill Moss:

Experience as the City Manager of Naples for 11 years, and as the [first] City Manager of Marco Island has allowed experience and knowledge to address projects and programs that are important to citizens, businesses, and other stakeholders. Demonstrated commitment to communication and collaboration, along with willingness to compromise, encouragement of transparency, recognized honesty and integrity, and commitment to improving processes and services while maximizing resources with low costs. Experience with catastrophic events and meaningful communications will assist in the planning, execution, and recovery.