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The Candidates and the Park

Some candidates support the new park in front of the Basilica, and *some don't.*

Councilman [Cecil Bothwell](#) has worked toward making the park happen since 2005, when plans for a deck and a high-rise collapsed amid public opposition.

When [Rich Lee](#) ran in 2015, he pledged to make the area a public park "now and forever".

[Vijay Kapoor](#) says it should be all green space.

Others support the park - [Sheneika Smith](#), [Dee Williams](#) and [Jan Kubinieć](#).

Those who oppose the park include

[Vice-Mayor Gwen Wisler](#), [Jeremy Goldstein](#), [Pratik Bhakta](#), [Kim Roney](#), [Andrew Fletcher](#) and [Adrian Vassallo](#).

[Jeremy Goldstein](#) voted against the park when he served on the City task force charged with collecting public input and coming up with a design.

Although the majority of the public surveyed said they wanted a park, *Goldstein instead voted for a privately owned building and*

a business incubator on the site.

The bottom line: if Cecil Bothwell is re-elected and also *just one* of those who support the park, *we will get a park.*

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And on the short term rental issue, Asheville [Short Term Rental Advocates, ASTRA](#), endorsed Cecil Bothwell, Sheneika Smith, Rich Lee and Vijay Kapoor.

ASTRA believes that short term rentals don't harm neighborhoods (hello Montford!) and that they allow residents to also benefit from the tourist economy.

Don't forget to vote this Tuesday, October 10th!

--The folks at PARC



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