

Responses to a Questionnaire
(from the *Save Red Bank Central Park* Citizens' Group)
by the 2022 Candidates for the Red Bank, TN, Commission
September 2022

Dari Owens (for District 1)



1. Compared with other priorities for the City, how important do you think parks and recreation lands, and related amenities are to the Red Bank community, economy, and culture? Why?

Clearly, parks and recreational public lands are highly valuable to any vibrant community. These are the places citizens come together, and I'm grateful to live in a town where we have many options.

The amenities anchoring these spaces are equally important, allowing Red Bank to prosper with tax revenue from new and existing shops and restaurants. Beautiful parks and unique businesses work together to create a symbiotic environment ripe for visitors and revenue.

2. What do you think the City of Red Bank should do with the publicly owned 12-acre former middle school property at 3715 Dayton Boulevard? Please explain in detail.

I would love to see a beautiful park with native plants, open greenspace, cozy walking areas, amazing restaurants, a tot's splash pad, unique local shops, disc golf etc.

We have an abundance of acreage available at this location, even with the land swap, to truly create an oasis, a destination right in the middle of our town.

3. What is your opinion about the merits of the City's current "10-minute Walk to a Park Initiative" compared with other Red Bank parks and recreation needs?

I see no specific issue with the initiative, and as with anything, we just simply need to do a cost-vs-benefit analysis, including all of our citizenry in the conversation.

We have existing parks and recreational areas that do need attention as well.

The North end of Red Bank has no park, and has been developing quickly. It would be wise to see how we might bring in a public park for that area.



[Owens, continued]

We have tennis courts behind the ball fields on White Oak that are in desperate need of repair, or even rebuilding.

The dog park at White Oak park is only lightly used because it has no shade, no seats, is frequently muddy, and feels like it's on an island by itself. We need to look into how to improve that experience for our citizens and their dogs.

4. How do you propose to resolve Red Bank's out-of-compliance status with the National Park Service regarding the 2011 land swap agreement?

Thankfully we do not need to swap acre-for-acre, only for an amount equal in appraised value. We need to do another appraisal of the old middle school property on Dayton Blvd., and swap based on that amount.

5. Do you think resolution of Red Bank's out-of-compliance status with the National Park Service matters? Why or why not?

Yes, it matters. Potentially not being able to secure future grants for public spaces could be detrimental to our community. We need to get into good standing so we can move forward.