

**KIKI, STEVE, & AMY – Progressive Dinner at Season’s Grill
September 4, 2013**

STEVE: The voters of Coeur d’Alene understand that this is a non-partisan race. They understand that if they are lucky to be elected, and then they are the mayor for everyone. They are not the mayor for just one group.

I’ll have to tell you a story. Amy, Kiki, and myself spent five very long days at the North Idaho fair. And it was kind of hot. But we met a lot of nice people. And I got a lot of referrals from the democratic booth. And they said these people need to come over and talk to you. And right across the way was the Republicans and I knew quite a few of them and they were all really nice and friendly, but I did have someone from the Reagan Republicans call me a jerk. [KIKI “They have to”] ... and I think that person was being a jerk. But I think that kind of describes how the partisan politics are going to play out unfortunately in this race. My response is just going to be to have a positive message. To talk about the future. To talk about the things that we can all do for the city to change Coeur d’Alene. So that’s the best way to counteract the partisan politics is just to remain positive.

KIKI: I’ve been asked what I bring to the table. As Steve said, we spent this time at the fair. And when someone says, why should I vote for you? The first thing that I started saying is: What is important to you? What are you concerned about in your city that you think I need to hear? You sound like you have a story to tell me. What happened is that over that period of time, I started learning in my heart what I have to offer. It is something I was born with. I have an open mind. And I have some experience here in this community. I know a lot of the players. I know a lot of what goes on here, that people can judge as good or bad, but what I do hope is that when you think about should I vote for Kiki, I will listen to what you are saying. And I want to find the truth about things before I make a decision. I have very good friends who are journalists. I grew up in the newspaper realm. One of the things I know to be true is that one thing that comes out of my mouth a lot is that, “I don’t know” is an answer. “I will find out” is the follow up. So as someone who represents you wants to know what you want. And I want to find out the right answers for you.

AMY: One of the questions is “why is this election important.” And to me, it’s not really important. It is absolutely critical to our community. Right now we are in a tough situation with three council seats being up for election and the Mayor’s seat. And for me, I can’t speak more for about how passionate I am about Coeur d’Alene—its vitality and maintaining it for the generations to come. For my children and my grandchildren. And helping it to continue to move in a positive path and the forward momentum that it is currently going. So I don’t want it to pause. I don’t want it to stop. And I want to be part of that progress of moving our community forward. So it is absolutely crucial for me that the three of us get elected this next cycle.

STEVE: A couple things I just wanted to talk about. I wanted to talk about what I feel I bring to the table. As you remember, I’ve never been a politician. I’ve never been one to like to go out and talk about myself and things that I can do, but you have to promote yourself to do this. And my background is in budget and finance. And I worked for 16 years. And my boss was Art Flaggins. So I learned to take a dollar this big (motions with fingers) and stretch it out this big. And so that’s what I learned from Art in the organization. Also, that people are important. So I bring not only the budget and finance skills to make sure that everyone’s tax dollars are spent efficiently and that our government is streamlined, but I also have the ability to recognize that people are

**KIKI, STEVE, & AMY – Progressive Dinner at Season’s Grill
September 4, 2013**

important. And there are 357 employees in the city of Coeur d’Alene and we need to make sure we have the best employees. And we do have some really good employees that are down there that need to be recognized. And I will have to tell you that one thing that I saw and I don’t know how closely you paid attention to city politics, but I saw something last night at the city council meeting that was rather disturbing for me. And what was disturbing was that there was a council person that made a motion to take away the salary increases of all department heads. Now, these are the leaders of the city. They are responsible and they oversee all sixteen departments in the city of Coeur d’Alene. So basically when I saw that, it was a slap in the face to sixteen people that are leading the employees of the city of Coeur d’Alene. To me, that’s not a way that you run an organization. You’d obviously need to be responsible. And the city salaries are something that needs to be studied, but you need to be responsible. And those people are as hard working—I think you have 350 something very hard working employees. And to do that is very similar to just cutting the head off of an organization. If you are going to discredit the sixteen leaders of your organization, what is that going to do for the entire organization? So in my mind, that person really lacks any knowledge of what it takes to build an organization. Because you have to build up your leaders to lead the people underneath. And that is something that I understand.

And I want to just touch on what some main issues are. Obviously McEwen has been a hot button issue. The most divisive issue in the 50 something years I’ve lived in the city of Coeur d’Alene. Have people on both sides of it. But that whole process—and people have come up to me and asked, “What are you going to do about McEwen?” And I tell them, “I’m going to enjoy it.” Because whether we disagreed with whether there should be a baseball field there or a variety of different things—I can hand out a piece of paper to every single one of the people in this room and have them draw a park and we would get however many people that we have in this room different parks. So its difficult to get every aspect of a park that someone wants. But I will guarantee you that when this park is done; it is going to be something that we are proud of. And so we as a council, And I certainly hope that everyone recognizes the skills that Amy and Kiki bring as well—because we have to be elected as a team... and we as a council will have the job of finishing McEwen. IN January of 2014, McEwen will not be finished. So we will have the job of making sure that it is finished. We will have to make sure that it is finished on plan. We will have to make sure that it is finished on budget. But there are a couple of other important things too. It needs to have a park manager plan. It is a totally different park than what was there before. And so it is going to need a park management plan. For security, for events. For a variety of things. We as a community have a 20 MM investment in McEwen Field and we need to protect that investment. So there needs to be a sound management plan for the park. And another thing that we need to do and it may take a little bit of time, but I think we could probably safely say it is a 50/50 split on people that say they wanted McEwen done and back and forth. But what my goal is that it is a park that everyone is proud of. That every citizen of Coeur d’Alene says, “I’m so proud of McEwen Field.” When they have people visit them, the first thing that they do is take them down to McEwen Park because McEwen Park is going to be such a great project in the city of Coeur d’Alene.

I see a slate of candidates with Amy and Kiki and myself that are looking forward to the future. Those want to plan for a future whether it is for education or for our parks or for job creation. And I see us as forward thinkers. And I see our opponents as people that are just going to take us backwards. And that is why this election is so important.

**KIKI, STEVE, & AMY – Progressive Dinner at Season’s Grill
September 4, 2013**

Q: How does each of you feel about the event center?

STEVE: Well, my feeling on the event center is that there is a lot of homework to be done on it. From my understanding, NIC is at a point where they are going to send out proposals to have someone do the feasibility studies and I think we probably need to wait until that feasibility comes back and see what the economic impact on the community is going to be before we can comment on whether it is a worthwhile project. I think there have been things going back and forth. There are some saying it will have a seven million dollar positive impact and there are others who say to look at others around the area that have failed that have actually cost the taxpayers money and so I think it would be prudent to take a look at this feasibility study before we make a decision on whether to move forward with that.

Q: Have you been vetted by Balance North Idaho, and if so, what are they indicating to you?

KIKI: I can tell you that I have an appointment with them, but not until next Wednesday. And they are supposed to release their findings by Friday.

AMY: My interview with them is tomorrow.

Audience: Balance North Idaho helped us all.

Q: Where is Woody in all of this? And how do you include him? Talk about Woody’s race and how it impacts your race.

AMY: We haven’t discussed this much between the three of us. So Steve and Kiki can stop me and correct me. I am very supportive of Woody and will do everything I can to help him get reelected. We have not sat down as a team. The three of us have sat down together once and we had our experience at the fair. And so it is probably time that we sat down with Woody. We’ve just been getting our campaigns up and going. Campaign managers, yard signs ordered, candidacy paperwork filed. So in my opinion, it is time to sit down with him and meet with him.

Q: But you are running as a slate?

STEVE: I Think it is safe to say that we all support each other’s opinions. You called it an informal slate. You are probably not going to see our three pictures on a billboard. But we definitely support each other as candidates.

KIKI: And I can tell you that I was at a council meeting talking with Woody. He was very supportive of me running. And I am very supportive and will do what I can. I think that the history that he has on the council that he brings to the table with the knowledge of these in depth issues—I would hate to lose that.

Q: It is wonderful to hear Steve talk about the department heads. Most of us understand that we have an outstanding staff at the city. What can you do as a team to dispel this animosity and partisanship and division in the city?

**KIKI, STEVE, & AMY – Progressive Dinner at Season’s Grill
September 4, 2013**

STEVE: I think it just all stems from how you treat people. And the respect that you give people. I think that there’s been a lot of back and forth now. You will see some council people make some reactions because of all the criticism they’ve taken and they’ve taken a lot of criticism. I mean for all the criticism that Sandy Bleom has taken especially over the four or five years—it would be natural for someone to fight back a little bit. And so I have a tremendous amount of respect for her because she really has taken a lot of heat in a lot of areas. And I think we are going to look back and see how strong she really was. And what a really good job that she did here. But I think going forward, my perspective would be that you treat everyone with respect and listen to their opinions. You try to make sure that everyone knows that you are listening. There has been a great deal of people out there who have said, “well, I don’t feel that I’m listened to.” And that’s where some of the anger, some of the frustration. Now, there are some people out there that you are not going to please. You can work from now until Vision 2030 and still never please these people. But I think if you just treat people with respect. You let them know that you are listening to their concerns. And you lead by example—that I treat all people with respect. One of the big words that I don’t think is said enough a lot of the time is “thank you.” Just common kindness is going to alleviate a lot of that incivility that we’ve seen.

KIKI: the community is exhausted with negativity. They want to get past this negative drum beating. And I think they are willing to listen now. I really think they are saying, “enough is enough, we want to move forward together.” I’ve heard that from a lot of people that I talk to.

Q: It seems to me kind of like the city is on a trajectory. We have a library. We have the Kroc Center. We have the education corridor. We have the possibility of an event center. We have the park that is going on. From an outside observer, it seems to be a trajectory that the city is on. How will you manage that?

STEVE: I would say when you talk about all those projects. When you talk about the library, and the Kroc Center and the education corridor there has been what I feel to be a very vocal minority that has complained about every project along the way. And I think that as you prove that these projects are good for the community and successful, they seem to just switch to another topic. It started off with the library. The library was in the wrong location. This and that. And then it moved to the Kroc Center. The city was spending money on the Kroc Center that they said they weren’t going to spend. And so I think that the goal would be to make sure that the projects that we are involved with are successful and that hopefully we can prove and have a track record that we continue to have successful projects. I can see that if we look back—I’m hoping that we look back four or five years from now. The education corridor. They have three or four buildings built down there. They have a professional technical building built and there are students that are attending there. And so people can see the success of that. And so I think if we work hard and ensure the success of these projects, then hopefully some of these peoples hearts will be changed. And the same with when I talked about McEwen. I think you already see McEwen taking shape with the basketball courts and the playground equipment. And it is starting to feel a little bit more like a park. So I think that it is going to be our job that these projects that are out there are finished and are successful. And that any projects that we make continue our success as well.

**KIKI, STEVE, & AMY – Progressive Dinner at Season’s Grill
September 4, 2013**

KIKI: Vision 2030 project—I’m watching what they are doing and that can be one of the most powerful tools to do what you are asking. And that is—how do we manage this trajectory, which is basically the development of this community. My thought is that we manage it with input from the citizens so that we are doing things that they want and managing them successfully. So I’m looking at that to hopefully be a good tool along with a lot of other input. I think we learned a lot over the turmoil of McEwen Park. I think everyone in the community did.

Q: What are Amy’s accomplishments?

AMY: Something I haven’t thought a lot about. I’m currently on the planning commission. Since I’ve been on the planning commission, our economy has been struggling a bit. And we haven’t had a lot of agenda items to be honest. We skipped several months’ meetings. But one of the things I’m most proud of in almost a juvenile way—but not, is my first set of findings made were some zoning changes in the education corridor. So I was happy to be at the table and be a part of that process.

Q: I’m on the bike/ped committee and I would assume and now surmise that you are some pretty progressive candidates. That you would be supportive of the goal of connectivity with pedestrian bike trails. Do you see that affecting our economy?

STEVE: I think we’ve become a very biking community. We have a lot of people that are very active on that. And I think the more that we can promote activity—I have not studied that one, but it sounds like it promotes the biking activities and I believe that is something that we would support.

Q: I’m sure you say it is important to listen, but my experience has been people think you are not listening if you don’t want what I want. I wonder how you feel about the idea that was really pushed about city council needing to take a public vote on everything that happens. How are you going to deal with that? Because I’m sure that’s going to come up as a negative about the current city government.

STEVE: People are elected. You have elections to elect people to make big decisions. They just made a rather large decision on the wastewater treatment plant. There’s a 30+MM project going forward and if you talk about good city planning...that has us planned out for decades into the future. And that was a 33MM decision. And that was one that was just made by council. Not by vote, but by people who were elected to make those decisions and that was the right decision. The one thing that I think about McEwen. Is that McEwen was an issue of such high interest. And it was such a sacred piece of publicly owned ground with a fairly large 20MM price tag. I don’t really see a downside of a public vote. I think a public vote if presented correctly—a majority of the people would have supported it. And if they would have come out and had a public vote that explained exactly what we wanted to do—we have a history in this community of voting for positive projects. We have a history if they present positive projects that the voters will come out and support it. They supported the library. We’ve supported several school levies when the need was out there. And I think if it were presented correctly, a public vote would have cured a lot of these ills that people have. Because I think a majority of people would have come

**KIKI, STEVE, & AMY – Progressive Dinner at Season’s Grill
September 4, 2013**

to support that. So in that instance, I would have been in favor of a public vote. I just didn’t see any downside.

AMY: Well, this is where the candidates differ. I was not in support of a public vote on McEwen and I am not now. I don’t think it is appropriate to vote for park planning. I think it sets a precedent and I think we need to ask ourselves when it would be appropriate or not to ask for a public vote. It would be a non-bonding vote. It would cost the city a lot of money. So my answer is no, I would not be in support of a public vote on McEwen.

Q: there’s a perception, accurate or not, that progressives like to see things changed rapidly and that conservatives don’t like to spend money. I think there has to be a balance. I’m wondering where you three come from with those things in mind.

KIKI: I’m a very frugal person. The first thing I will tell you is, that I don’t have all the facts (about the closure of front street). I wasn’t in all the meetings. For me, I’m looking at all the changes that are going to incur in that area and I had a lot more questions than I had answers. Why would we spend money now to do that? What are the real traffic patterns going to be? For me, having a bit of a moving target—spending money on it didn’t make sense. That’s how I feel about spending money without having all the facts. Spending money to spend money is not a good idea.

STEVE: I don’t know anybody that gets the little piece of paper in the mail in November and opens up their property tax bill and says YES! It’s my property tax bill. Everyone is sensitive about property taxes. But prudent people understand that there is a responsibility. There’s a responsibility to pay those taxes. Our opponents talk about all the waste. All the overspending. To be honest with you—if you go through the city budget, I believe it is four of the last six or seven years they’ve taken zero percent increases in property taxes. They’ve lived within their means. And I think they’ve done a pretty good job of keeping property taxes low. If you compare our property taxes to (inaudible) and other areas, our property taxes are reasonable. The bottom line is that we all have a responsibility. We have a responsibility to fund our city government. To fund police. To fund fire. To fund our schools. And I think that’s a responsibility that most people understand and are willing to –now; they want to make sure that they are getting value. They want to make sure that their money is spent responsibly. But I think that most people in the city live up to that responsibility and understand that.

AMY: I would have to agree with Kiki and Steve on that. I just finished launching an education partnership and now we are into our second year. It is a non-profit that advocates for quality public education. With that came a bit of controversy—and I’ve had the pleasure of serving as the founding president of that organization. And a lot of the comments in the letters to the editor were that we were a bunch of progressive liberals. I have to say that I took that as a compliment. Because I do want progress in our community and I do want to move our community forward on things such a new wonderful library and public art and the education corridor and the Kroc Center. So to answer that part of your question—I was actually proud of that criticism and wore it with pride. If that’s what I’m labeled as.

Q: rising home prices

**KIKI, STEVE, & AMY – Progressive Dinner at Season’s Grill
September 4, 2013**

STEVE: We are not going to stop some of these prices from going up. It’s a difficult thing to do. But if we can have an educated population and we can recruit well-paying jobs, then we can keep pace with some of these rising costs.

Q: Your opponents have tapped into the anger that has come with McEwen Field. How do you get the supporters to the polls? What is your GOTV strategy?

KIKI: I’m doing everything I can within a reasonable budget. Social media. Word of mouth. Encouraging people not living in the city to bring their friends living in the city to the polls.

STEVE: I know that Justin is the absolute king of voter lists. But I’ve gone through several voter lists. And I’ve got a voter list now. It’s the large voter list because it’s the last November 2012 voter list and I’m actually starting in the “A”s. And I’ve lived in this town a long time. And I’m going through it and identifying people that I know. And I may have not talked to these people for 20 years. And I’m trying to write a personal note to as many of these people as I can. Because you get so much campaign material. How much of it is really read. Now, I’m going to do some of that campaign material. But I’m probably going to go through this list that I have and I’m going to handwrite envelopes and handwrite notes. I’m hoping to get over a thousand notes that I’m going to write out to people. Maybe more. So that’s what I’m trying to do to reach out to as many voters as I can.

AMY: I started my door knocking under some great guidance on Saturday. My husband and I went out for a test run in the Sanders Beach area. We went to 80 houses. Most people were not home. We left a lot of literature. I was a campaign manager for Kent Howard’s state senate race in 2008. So Mary Lou took me out for my first door knocking experience and we had a great time. That’s one way to do it. I have a social media guru sitting next to me who is my campaign manager. We are exploring social networking to target other demographics in the community. Assigning people to write letters to the editor.

Q: How can we help you? Obviously, you don’t want our endorsement.

STEVE, AMY, KIKI – laughter

Q: I don’t know if you came in here with a big nose and glasses so you wouldn’t be recognized coming to a democratic luncheon. But I hope you really make an effort with the non-partisan stand.

Audience: During our election for school board, Christa Hazel was given a lot of pressure to put republican on her sign because she is a republican but she said this is a non-partisan race and I’m not going to do that. I’m not going to play that game. I kept answering them: “We are not going to answer partisan questions.”

KIKI: I’m assuming you are a democrat. Thank you for inviting me. You are also a citizen and a voter. So, I really feel comfortable that that’s where I’m coming from. This is great learning for me. I appreciate you all being civil and kindhearted and open minded.

**KIKI, STEVE, & AMY – Progressive Dinner at Season’s Grill
September 4, 2013**

STEVE: If we look at my opponent and we take everything that my opponent has been against—so we would take the library ... and we would take that away. We would take the Kroc Center and we would take that away. We would have Mill River and Riverstone would be old blighted mill sites. We would take the education corridor and I know that today it is just roads, but someday its going to be some beautiful education buildings and that would be a big dirt field. Downtown Coeur d’Alene when LCDC was started in 1997 was 30-35% vacant. We would still have the vacancies if we followed the path of my opponent. And so I think that Amy and Kiki and myself, we have a positive message. We see positive projects. We want to do positive projects in the future. We value a great education. We know we need to bring in well-paying jobs. And the part of what people say “What are you going to do with the city of Coeur d’Alene.” Well, some of the things I’m going to do is I’m not going to screw it up. I’m going to make sure we still have clean streets. We still have nice parks. We still have a top-notch police and fire department. So sure we can build on it. But we can make things better. But we need to maintain the good that we have and enhance things for the future.

Audience: Always talk about what things are worth instead of just what they cost. That’s part of having a positive forward thinking campaign.

AMY: It’s really been our first opportunity to speak publicly. We’ve done a lot of one on one meetings. But it’s been great practice with a lot of kind faces and good advice.

Q: What did you learn tonight?

STEVE’S WIFE: I learned that we have many great supporters here.

STEVE: I learned like I did at the fair that democrats are very nice people.

AMY: It’s just so comforting to be in a room with smiles and supportive words. This puts you in a very vulnerable position. And I knew that going in, but I didn’t fully understand what that meant. So I can’t tell you how much I appreciate your encouragement.

AMY’s CAMPAIGN MANAGER: Well, I knew that democrats were great people. I’m just so glad that there are so many here. A young person moving into a new community can get a little nervous when there is just red everywhere. I’m not running, so I’m aloud to say that.