

Raeann Mettler for Ward 1, Spearfish City Council

Experience

Career researcher, primarily in Natural Sciences, Environmental Sciences and Indigenous Public Health

As BHSU Biology Faculty, I served at co-coordinator of the MSIG Graduate Program; College of Business & Natural Sciences Strategic Planning Committee; Sciences Evaluation Committee; Graduate Student Committees; Faculty Search Committees and Faculty Advisor to dozens of students over the years

I now adjunct as needed, while my full-time employment is with public health research (Missouri Breaks Industries Research, Inc.)

I served on the board for the Booth Society from 2021-2023, and the executive board as Secretary and President during those years.

I also own a small business (Black Hills Bricks Bots & Beakers) which provides STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Math) programs for preK - middle schoolers in the area

Other:

- Registered Democrat, running on a non-partisan campaign for Spearfish City Council
- Fellow of Billie Sutton Leadership Institute, 2021
- Members of South Dakota Afterschool Network & STEM Ambassadors
- Path2Impact Leadership Cohort
- BHSU & SD Mines Women in Science Speaker, Volunteer, Organizer
- BHSU Middle School Science Fair Judge multiple years
- BHSU Research Symposium Judge multiple years
- for things I'm forgetting, see <https://www.mettlerforcitycouncil.com/> and <https://www.linkedin.com/in/raeann-mettler-phd-747856b5/>
- CV also attached

Issues important to me

- High quality educational opportunities
- Health & Wellness
- Environmental stewardship - clean air, water, soil
- Environmental Justice
- Sustainability - transportation & waste
- Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
- Supporting Native American history, culture & wellness
- Raising families in a safe and clean Spearfish
- Building capacity in our community
- Supporting each other and setting a model for the next generation with our actions

Challenges

- Transparently in municipal governance: I hope to help increase the connectivity between the public and elected city officials, to best understand topics being discussed/considered for council vote, what the community's feedback is, the implementation plan, and checks & balances process
- Inclusivity & Connectivity: all citizens of Spearfish need to feel they are represented by their city, that they have a voice in municipal matters, and they can live in a safe and clean town. With today's polarized political climate, we need to find ways to connect with common ground to support each other.
- High housing and childcare costs: while both are multifaceted issues, city officials must listen and learn from our citizens and engage in opportunities to do so. To me, an immediate step in the right direction to this challenge is to collect data on the issues to best evaluate possible solutions; there's a place to do our research and see what similar towns are doing, but also opportunities to innovate. Data-driven decisions then need to be evaluated for their effectiveness over time.

Positive Attributes of City/School Governance

- Support for economic growth
- Support for low-cost transportation via Prairie Hills Transit
- Comfortable living for individuals/families higher income
- Diverse culture and innovation added with BHSU & Monument Health professionals & students, both visionary institutes critical to our community
- High quality sports fields and new Sky Ridge Complex, providing many opportunities for youth sports
- Snow removal team on point with clearing roads during/after storms
- Bike/Rec path expanding to connect edges of town
- Parks and green spaces are phenomenal, community helps keep clean
- Awesome cycling, music and arts culture in Spearfish; our non-profits do amazing things here and always need more support/resources
- Schools embrace "Spartan Pride" and engage community/BHSU students in events

thoughts on:

- School vouchers: I do not support HB-1020
- Banning book: I do not support nor HB-1239
- Support for libraries: I fully support libraries and librarians
- DEI: I fully support all efforts to improve DEI nationally, in SD and locally