

May 2021 Our Stories, Redmond Connections

Redmond Mayor Angela Birney

Hello, I'm Mayor Angela Birney and welcome to this month's video in my "Our Stories, Redmond Connections" series.

As the leader of a city, the job of Mayor is very rewarding. My education, personal interactions, and previous experiences created the background I needed to run our well-loved city. However, as much preparation as anyone does, I don't know if anything could completely prepare any mayor for the role since part of the job is to expect the unexpected. The year 2020 is a good example of that.

Leading with compassion and integrity provides a foundation in this job. By learning to leverage my strengths and being supported by the talents of others, this city, or any organization can navigate challenging times and remain focused on our vision and goals in serving the community.

I thought it would be fun to ask the Redmond Youth Partnership Advisory Committee chair and some students enrolled at Farrel-McWhirter Park's Nature Vision Preschool what they would do if they were Mayor of Redmond for a day.

Miko Kato, Redmond Youth Partnership Advisory Committee Chair

If I were mayor, I would establish direct and continuous lines of communication with as many groups represented in my city as possible. Whether it be people of different abilities, teens, people in different financial situations, with different cultures, and so on, to promote equity and ensure that needs are being met throughout my city in terms of accessibility, in terms of availability of resources, and in terms of feeling like their part of the community. And that's what I would do if I were mayor for a day.

Miles, 5-year old Nature Vision Preschooler

If I was mayor for the day, I would be kind. I would help people. I would drive an ambulance truck. I would hug trees for Earth Day. That's all. And I would not watch any screens -no screen time.

Reyna, 5-year old Nature Vision Preschooler

I would give help to people that couldn't get help. And I would make sure everyone was doing things that is good. If people are not doing something that is not very, very good, I would call the police. To take care of them? Yeah. I would make new parks and make more places for old people to sit.

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No two days of being a mayor is the same in content, however a successful day for me always includes at least one interaction, one decision, or one outcome that I know will bring benefits to our staff, community, or region.

Enough about me; I am interested to hear your thoughts. In the comments, please share what you would do if you were the Mayor of Redmond for the day using the hashtag #RedmondConnections. Thank you for making Redmond and our community a great place to live, work, and play. See you next time.