Linley Schmidt 3/28/2017

Questions:

1. What is your hometown? Memphis
2. If you could move to another city, would you? Another city would have to offer an awful lot. It would have to be a very historic place.
3. If so, what city? Portland, OR. Two of my friends moved there and said it was like Cooper-Young, but the whole place.
4. What neighborhood do you live in? Cooper Young
5. How long have you lived in Memphis? My whole life.
6. How would you describe the City of Memphis in three words? Gritty, Creative , but most of all, cool.
7. What was your childhood in Memphis like? I didn’t have that many friends, so I was lonely. I grew up in Binghampton. But before Binghampton was a cool place. So it was pretty working class, but lots of walking around and riding bikes. Mom giving me $2 and my sister and I walking to the convenience store on Poplar and buying a whole bag full of candy. And going sometimes to the jazz festival downtown. I remember seeing Rufus Thomas playing with his shorts and platform shoes and all that.
8. What is your current impression of Memphis? Its got grit. It certainly is not perfect, but we are not all in denial of the problems. We embrace the problems along with the good and say ”that is so Memphis.” So I think we are at the point where we are really seeing the things that we could and should do to help lift everyone up because that is going to make the City even better. We are a strong city but people don’t know that. We are the underdog and those of us who root for underdogs have always rooted for it.
9. Do you feel Memphis has improved while you have lived here? Oh, greatly. Yes.
10. What is your funniest story about living in Memphis? I used to work at Elmwood cemetery and one day, the gold cart that my friend Jodie and I were driving, blew up. The battery overheated, caught fire, and blew up. We noticed the seat was getting very hot and smelled smoke. We ran for help and while asking someone to borrow their cell phone, the golf cart blew up. Fortunately nobody was hurt.
11. If you could change something about Memphis, what would it be?
12. This web site only captures a snapshot in time. What would you like someone twenty years from now who reads this to know about you? I have always been a cheerleader for this city. I have always tried to work in the most interesting places here. Which to me are those places that really embody and communicate the history of Memphis because the history of Memphis is much more interesting than people give it credit for. And I think a lot of people somehow see Memphis as being devoid of history. Memphis has an incredibly interesting history. Or they just pick out the bad parts. And so I have always been drawn to working at these places to really try to bring the history of Memphis alive for people so they feel that they actually do have a connection to it. So I think a lot of people in Memphis see themselves as having a limited connection to it. And it is because so many people don’t know how they fit into it. And I think it is a lot less true now than it used to be.
13. What is your favorite thing about Memphis? Midtown. I love that I go out places and see people I know.