

Subject: Reorganizing the Rec. Commission.

Date: Sat, 1 Dec 2001 12:51:42 -0800

From: Ernie Crist <CristE@district.north-van.bc.ca>

To: "FONVCA (E-mail)" <fonvca@fonvca.org>

A message from Ernie Crist:

I am appealing for support for this important issue as a way to save our Rec Facilities from being privatized or alternatively and/or even simultaneously continuing to pay a colossal price for a huge and non-efficient and out of control bureaucracy. My motion will come up this coming Monday and, in essence, is based on the following premise and/or has the following objective;

Our Rec. and Preventive Health Care Facilities and programs, as an important part of our affordable North Shore preventive community public health care facilities system, is in jeopardy and will be privatized. This will be, notwithstanding this or that statement by one or the other of the elected officials. Such a course is the secret agenda, not only of some sections of the present District Council, but is also the logical outcome of the Recreations Commission's own posture in recent years on one hand as well as lack of leadership by the Mayor and Council of the District on the other.

The only way to prevent this is by neighborhoods themselves playing a much greater role in the running of Rec Facilities in their own respective areas, including operating such facilities in a business like basis for the full benefit of relevant neighborhoods and District taxpayers in general.

To make this possible, I have made the following proposals including calling for this issue to be put before the public. There was an attempt to confront the public with a fait accompli based on the status quo and to prevent effective public input. This attempt was unsuccessful. The motion will come up this coming Monday.

1) That the present Rec Commission be dissolved and that all subsidies for public recreation and field use be terminated since it is through those very subsidies that District taxpayers continue to subsidize the City, which contributes nothing to the capital maintenance cost of District Facilities or the use of playing fields by City residents of which the District has a preponderance.

2) provide new strategic directions with the aim of turning effective control, including the control of finances, of District Rec Facilities in any given area over to Neighborhood Recreation Boards to be elected by the relevant neighborhoods and/or that they be appointed by Council or a combination of both, as the case may be, based on the Park Gate model more or less.

3) That, notwithstanding item (1), the District commit to provide annual grants to such Neighborhood Recreation Councils for programs, capital maintenance and capital projects, as the case may be.


4) That, notwithstanding items 1, 2 and 3, such Neighborhood Recreation Councils be empowered to enter into agreements with the City and/or individual City and other non-District residents for participating in such programs provided this is cost neutral to District taxpayers.

5) That, notwithstanding any of the items above, the Director of Recreation, in consultation with Neighborhood Recreation Boards, be responsible for the provision of programs.

6) That the Council of the District hire a fully qualified business

officer to assist the Director of Recreation and Neighborhood Recreation Councils in providing professional and effective business practices.

I urge you to support my motion during the public input period this coming Monday to guarantee that the points outlined above will be part of the public debate. There is much at stake for our community.

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