

Subject: Fw: Your questions concerning the Grouse Grind

Date: Wed, 25 Apr 2001 15:37:23 -0700

From: "Dave Sadler" <davesadler@telus.net>

To: "Corrie Kost" <kost@triumf.ca>

----- Original Message -----

From: "Bill Morrell" <Bill.Morrell@gvrd.bc.ca>

To: <davesadler@telus.net>

Cc: "Robert Paddon" <Robert.Paddon@gvrd.bc.ca>

Sent: Wednesday, April 25, 2001 2:33 PM

Subject: Your questions concerning the Grouse Grind

Mr. Sadler: I have attempted to provide answers to your questions - please see below. I will also ensure that your concerns/suggestions are conveyed to GVWD Board Directors. Your interest is appreciated.

Cheers,

BM

451-6107

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> From: WebMaster

> Sent: April 25, 2001 8:54 AM

> To: Bill Morrell

> Subject: FW: Please Distribute to GVWD Board Members & Information

> Clerk

>

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> From: Dave Sadler[SMTP:davesadler@telus.net]

> Sent: April 24, 2001 11:45 PM

> To: WebMaster

> Cc: Stephen Fleming; FONVCA

> Subject: Please Distribute to GVWD Board Members & Information Clerk

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> Dear GVWD Board Member:

> April 25/01

>

> Grouse Grind

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> Considering the Grouse Grind is to trails what Stanley Park is to parks, I

> was surprised to learn that the GVWD wants to divest itself of this

> property.

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> Question: I can find no record of this decision in GVWD Board minutes & I

> presume it was made in-camera. When did this discussion & decision occur?

> Was it in-camera? Is this information available on your web site? If so

> please indicate where, otherwise please fax me the minutes at 874-6097.

>

The issue was discussed by the GVWD Board of Directors on March 30, 2001. Information relating to in-camera sessions is, by definition, not public and so would not be posted to our website. Minutes of GVWD meetings are not official until approved by the board at its next meeting - in this case, Friday, April 27 - although in-camera minutes (again, by definition) are not publicly distributed. The rules concerning which items are to be discussed in-camera are informed by the GVRD Procedural Bylaw and the provincial Local Government Act - property matters are one such item. A media release announcing the decision was issued and posted to the website.

> Question: I have heard through the media that a representative from Grouse

> Mountain was present when this item was discussed. If this is true, and it

> was in-camera, I believe this action was totally inappropriate. Kindly

> *elaborate.*

While a representative from Grouse Mountain may have been in attendance at the public portion of the board meeting, no-one other than GVWD Directors and staff are permitted to remain for in-camera discussions.

> *Comment: With over 100,000 hikers climbing the trail annually, one can not
> imagine a more regional recreational attraction than the Grouse Grind.
> Therefore I feel the public would unequivocally support the trail being
> acquired by GVRD Regional Parks.*

That very well may be the case. GVRD Regional Parks, however, has not, to this point, expressed particular interest in acquiring the Grind and associated lands. GVRD Parks are for the most part intended to preserve contiguous wilderness areas and unique ecosystems, and are expressly not 'developed' parks such as Stanley Park or parks in other municipalities. At its root, however, is the fact that the GVWD is not in the business of outdoor recreation and wilderness adventures - our core responsibilities lie in the provision of drinking water. The Grouse Grind is not now, nor has it ever been, a GVWD endorsed or developed trail. As you may know, it evolved with use and through the efforts of dedicated volunteers. In addition, major access to the Grind, top and bottom, is on land not controlled by the Water District. With hugely increased usage over recent years, trail maintenance costs, potential liability for the region and its taxpayers and the lack of a long-term management strategy has become increasingly problematic. In that the lands are surplus to needs, are off-drainage and make no contribution to water supply or quality, divestiture of the property is viewed by the Water District Board of Directors as the most prudent course of action.

> *Conclusion: Surely the ideas of divestiture by the GVWD & acquisition by
> the GVRD Parks should require a public process before any decision is made
> to sell the property to private interests.*

>

> *I look forward to your earliest response to my questions.*

>

> *Yours truly,*

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> *Dave Sadler, 277 Roche Point Drive, North Vancouver, BC V7G 2G4*

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> *Cc District of North Vancouver*

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> *FONVA*

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