

Subject: Re: DNV Volunteer Reception

Date: Wed, 21 May 2003 17:14:22 -0700

From: Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>

To: Alan Nixon <alan_nixon@dnv.org>, Don Bell <don_bell@dnv.org>, Ernie Crist <ernie_crist@dnv.org>, Janice Harris <janice_harris@dnv.org>, Lisa Muri <lisa_muri@dnv.org>, Maureen McKeon Holmes <Maureen_McKeonHolmes@dnv.org>, Richard Walton <rwalton@dnv.org>, NVD Council <dnvcouncil@dnv.org>, BackD@district.north-van.bc.ca, FONVCA <fonvca@fonvca.org>, Richard Zerr <ZerrR@district.north-van.bc.ca>

Mayor & Council:

I would like to note for the record that Mayor Bell phoned me yesterday to respond to my e-mail regarding the volunteer reception being held at the Canyon House Banquet Room at the Capilano Suspension Bridge. He informed me that those who arranged the event were not involved or aware about any redevelopment applications being processed by the Planning Department. In other words, the venue of choice is simply a coincidence. The District is renting the Canyon House at full cost and the parking is not being waved. A number of other venues were considered, including Grouse Mtn., Northlands, and the Plaza. Mayor Bell noted that both West Van & the City host sit-down dinners for their volunteers at a restaurant, so the District wanted to do something similar although not host a dinner. The increased cost is apparently very little -- the rental of the room -- because most of the cost is for catering and the beer and wine. I fully accept Mayor Bell's explanation and retract any suggestion that the location of the volunteer reception was perhaps linked to a redevelopment application by the Suspension Bridge. Having said that, I have attended previous volunteer receptions held at the District Hall and found them to be very pleasant evenings and never once thought they should be held elsewhere.

Sincerely,
Brian Platts

Brian Platts wrote:

> *Mayor & Council:*

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> *It has recently come to my attention that the District's annual
> Volunteer Appreciation Reception on June 10th is being held at the
> Canyon House Banquet Room at the Capilano Suspension Bridge. Quite
> frankly I was very surprised to hear this news. Is Council not aware
> that the Suspension Bridge ownership is actively pursuing a major
> redevelopment application with the expectation of a Public Hearing in
> late June? With this in mind, is the Suspension Bridge hosting the
> reception for free? Is the pay parking being waved? Was the facility
> offered to the District or did the municipality independently choose
> to rent it at full cost? Regardless of the answers to these questions,
> why is the volunteer reception not being held at the District Hall
> where it has always taken place with great success? The timing of this
> reception on the Suspension Bridge property smells really bad. Members
> of the public will no doubt ask, is there an expectation of a
> favorable consideration of their redevelopment application in return
> for hosting this event?*

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> *Sincerely,
> Brian Platts*

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