

Subject: RE: Neighborhood Parks

Date: Fri, 30 Jan 2004 12:44:19 -0800

From: "Ernie Crist" <ernie_crist@dnv.org>

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

CC: "FONVCA (E-mail)" <fonvca@fonvca.org>, <cagebc@yahoo.com>

Dear Dr. Kost.

I have asked for a legal opinion since the information I have differs from yours. I'll be in touch with you.

Thank you.

Ernie Crist

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

From: Corrie Kost [mailto:kost@triumf.ca]

Sent: January 27, 2004 9:49 AM

To: Ernie Crist

Cc: FONVCA (E-mail); cagebc@yahoo.com

Subject: Neighborhood Parks

Dear Councillor Crist,

I wish things were that simple. As I have said many times to council and the community, the new Community Charter no longer requires a referendum to change Parkland into anything else. It now requires only 2/3 support from council and "assent" of the electors. The term "assent" is a complete misnomer as it is now defined to allow for just a counter petition opportunity. Such an opportunity is now so onerous - requiring 10% (previously 5%) of the total number of eligible voters (ie. a petition of about 5000 signatures !) that local residents cannot possibly attain this. Ted Nebbeling and Gordon Campbell refused to respond to FONVCA's and UBCM's concerns about this. Even our own council did not fight this change so as to protect the electorate from such future abuse of power. All our parks will now be under a constant threat of development. Only a constantly vigilant electorate, voting for municipal candidates who uphold protection of our park status, can now protect neighbourhood parks.

Corrie Kost

Ernie Crist wrote:

F I G H T F O R Y O U R N E I G H B O R H O O D P A R K .

A MESSAGE FROM ERNIE CRIST;

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

From: Ernie Crist

Sent: January 27, 2004 8:30 AM

To: Nathalie Valdes

Subject:

RECOMMENDATION - New Park Zones in the District of North Vancouver - Report Councillor Crist;

That the designation of all four recently approved park zones which allow to varying degrees the construction of buildings, multi purpose sports courts, complete with hard surface including commensurate parking facilities, be changed to NATURAL PARK ZONES to only allow green, natural spaces with pedestrian trails and pathways.

REASON FOR REPORT:

To request Council to reconsider the four new park zones that were recently approved and the potential impact of buildings in parks.

ANALYSIS:

With the exception of "Natural Parkland Zone," all other park zones in the District of North Vancouver allow to varying degrees, the construction of buildings, multi purpose sports courts and other hard surfaced areas including parking space.

Parks, however, including neighborhood parks should by and large be retained as green spaces including trees and not be subjected to continual development and construction. Parks, including neighborhood parks, are the lungs of the community and as such, should be protected. They are small islands of peace and tranquility that become ever more important in a growing and ever denser environment.

When the recent four new park zones were adopted by Council via bylaw, the public may have failed to realize the potential danger this bylaw constitutes when it comes to protecting their neighborhood park as green spaces.

Only one park, namely Bridgman park, was taken out of the then proposed park zone bylaw and this was done at the request of a District resident who clearly recognized that to protect her neighborhood park as green space, it would have to be designated as a natural parkland zone. As a result of the efforts of Mrs. Pat Neufeld, Bridgman Park must remain in a natural state with full protection against buildings and hard surfaces unless changed by obtaining approval from the electorate via a referendum.

Subsequently, I recommend that Council instruct staff to prepare appropriate amendments to the park zones to only allow green, natural spaces with trails, pathways, playgrounds or fields.

Once these amendments are in place, future Councils may consider changes and construction of facilities in parks, but only after obtaining approval from the electorate through referendum.

Ernie Crist,