

Subject: Re: Undedicating Parks

Date: Wed, 15 Sep 2004 19:59:29 -0700

From: Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>

To: Ernie Crist <ernie_crist@dnv.org>

CC: Alan Nixon <Alan_Nixon@dnv.org>, Lisa Muri <lisa_muri@dnv.org>, Maureen McKeon Holmes <Maureen_McKeonHolmes@dnv.org>, Richard Walton <richard_walton@dnv.org>, DNVCouncil <DNVCOUNCIL@dnv.org>, James Ridge <James_Ridge@dnv.org>, FONVCA <fonvca@fonvca.org>

Dear Councillor Crist,

Thank you for your response. Actually FONVCA is very much aware of the various park zones, including the Community Park Zone (CP), Neighbourhood Park Zone (NP), and Natural Parkland Zone (NPL). In fact, FONVCA participated in a complete review of the park zones a few years ago.

Of course our parks provide for many uses beyond forest and green areas such as that designated in the NPL zone. Community Parks accommodate multi-purpose uses including facilities like community centres, swimming pools, parking, concession stands, skateboard bowls, tennis courts etc. Neighbourhood Parks often accommodate sports fields, playgrounds, field houses, washrooms, among other uses along the same lines. Both the CP and NP Zones can also include natural forest and water course areas as well. Those parks designated as Natural Park -- such as your example of Bridgeman Park -- are those parks which remain in their natural state, but still may accommodate interpretive facilities or public washrooms.

The request that FONVCA was trying to make was not about what could be constructed under the EXISTING Park Zones, but rather, the possibility provided by the Community Charter for Council to undedicate parkland without a referendum and then, through a simple rezoning process, put the land to a completely different use altogether.

To re-emphasize, what FONVCA is fighting for is the very survival of our dedicated parks. Already West Vancouver (see page 11 of today's *North Shore News*) has begun the process by selling off a chunk of park which was dedicated in 1979 to an adjacent owner without going through referendum. Please consider this matter as a high priority.

Sincerely,
Brian Platts

Federation of NV Community Associations

Ernie Crist wrote:

Dear Mr. Platts:

Not all Parks are dedicated to the same degree and not to the extent which I believe you think they are. That is to say all parks (other than the first badge of the parks dedication bylaws) can contain (park related) structures. This means that parks with trees can be changed into "parks" with buildings such as swimming pools or ice rinks including parking lots by way of example. This could be done without going to referendum and even before the change in the Mun. Charter.

I pointed that out and made a motion to change that 4 years ago and again 3 years ago. The motion was that all parks in the District should remain in their natural state (a special designation). There was no support from council or staff - only one person namely Pat Neufeld recognized that in order to protect her beloved Bridgeman Park the designation for her park would have to be changed to a "natural park". She won and the result is that her park will remain truly green. As for the others, sooner or later - good bye trees or green covered parks.

Ernie Crist

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

From: Brian Platts [mailto:bplatts@shaw.ca]

Sent: September 12, 2004 9:31 PM

To: Alan Nixon; Ernie Crist; Lisa Muri; Maureen McKeon Holmes; Richard Walton; DNVCouncil

Cc: James Ridge; FONVCA

Subject: Undedicating Parks

Members of Council:

At a meeting of the *Federation of NV Community Associations* earlier this year, a discussion took place regarding changes introduced by the current Community Charter that now allows for the un-dedication of parks previously dedicated by referendum, without necessitating a referendum. The "approval" may, at Council's discretion, be by assent (referendum) or a counter-petition notification. Considering that all dedicated parks received that designation by way of referendum, FONVCA respectfully request that Council adopt either a policy or bylaw that will require a

referendum to un-dedicate a park which has been previously dedicated by a referendum.

Sincerely,
Brian Platts
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