

Subject: Financial Plan Process

Date: Sat, 06 Nov 2004 23:19:34 -0800

From: Corrie Kost <kost@triumf.ca>

To: council@dnv.org

CC: fonvca@fonvca.org

Your Worship & Members of Council,

I believe that the Financial Plan Process is not very "public friendly" and could stand a number of improvements to add to that desirable element termed "accountability".

I recall that the first meeting for the 2005-2009 Financial Plan took place October 19th, but the public was only made aware of it by an announcement at the October 18th council meeting. By the way, that council meeting was not broadcast live and thus most citizens would only have had this revealed on the Saturday morning cable broadcast of Oct 23 - far too late for the Oct 19th meeting. The district's web pages were of little help in this regard because the material was not prominently displayed - and what existed was mislabeled in that it referred to last year's 2003-2008 Financial Plan.

Recently the community associations were notified by mail "of a number of opportunities for you to find out more about the budget approach this year" by way of a series of Finance Workshops which are to be open to the public. It should be noted however that no actual input opportunities are being provided for the public. In addition they are being held from 5pm-7pm, which is when most people are either coming home from work or are having dinner.

In my opinion these meeting should be held at least after 6pm, and preferably starting at 7pm with a short period providing for comments by the public.

It should also be noted that at this time (Nov 6th) the minutes of the first workshop which took place Oct 19th, are still not available. The next workshop is to take place 5-7pm on Nov 9th. I believe the availability of relevant minutes in a timely fashion is helpful to both the public and council.

Finally, it is unfortunate that the public has had no opportunity to play a constructive role in determining the 2005-2009 Financial Plan Process. Such an opportunity may well have been beneficial to both council and the public. However, it is still early in the process and improvements can still be incorporated. The matter lies in your hands - I hope you will give serious consideration to some of the above suggestions.

Yours truly,

Corrie Kost