

Subject: [Fwd: Re: Lack of Appropriate Notification of Financial Plan Public Meetings....and Direct Democracy]

Date: Fri, 22 Oct 2004 14:06:27 -0700

From: Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>

To: Corrie Kost <kost@triumf.ca>

Subject: RE: Lack of Appropriate Notification of Financial Plan Public Meetings....and Direct Democracy

Date: Fri, 22 Oct 2004 18:05:14 +0100 (BST)

From: Elizabeth James <cagebc@yahoo.com>

To: Ernie Crist <ernie_crist@dnv.org>, "FONVCA (E-mail)" <fonvca@fonvca.org>

CC: Mayor and Council - DNV <Council@dnv.org>, Senior Management Committee <managecomm@dnv.org>, "Chris Dorais (E-mail)" <cdorais@telus.net>, "Doug Hill (E-mail)" <dougrhill@hotmail.com>, "Glenn Henderson (E-mail)" <glenhenderson@telus.net>, "Jim Cuthbert (E-mail)" <jimcuthbert@telus.net>, "Joan Gadsby (E-mail)" <joangadsby@pacificcoast.net>, "Kevin Bell (E-mail)" <sonbel@shaw.ca>, "Robin Hicks (E-mail)" <robinhicks@telus.net>, "Roger Bassam (E-mail)" <IMCEAEX-Roger+40millarsleague+2Ecom@dnv.org>, "Bruce Crowe (E-mail)" <mbr41@telus.net>, "Doug MacKay-Dunn (E-mail)" <macdunn@uniserve.com>, "Michael D. Molson (E-mail)" <formikemolson@aol.com>

22 October 2004

Dear Clr. Crist:

The points you make on the implications of the Lynn Valley projects are valid.

That said, the best way to bring the financial impact of these upcoming projects to the attention of all District taxpayers, would have been via the heated type of discussion which occurs during the lead-up to a referendum. Yet a majority of members of a lame-duck Council denied taxpayers that directly democratic opportunity, despite the fact that several of them - in answering serious questions from FONVCA in the 2002 election - said they supported "referenda on all major [District] projects." So much for that verbal contract.

As a result, citizens must now depend upon press releases from the District and/or their own research to obtain at least some of the answers.

Sincerely,
Liz James

Ernie Crist <ernie_crist@dnv.org> wrote:

Dear Dr. Kost

Your point is well taken. However, for what it is worth, the meeting in my opinion was good. It would have been better had the public been present. Not even any of the candidates were present. There is definitely a new way of inking visible. The CAO proposed a number of changes for this year's budget which are strategic in nature, look very promising and are very much in line with my own thinking. What will become of those ideas remains to be seen.

My concern is that the public is not aware of the issues as much as it should be and may subsequently not play a strong supporting role in any effort to bring about fundamental changes. The total utilization of District resources including land, Heritage Fund etc., to accomplish comprehensive solutions regarding development is but one such issue.

I am very much concerned that Lynn Valley where ! the biggest change has and continues to take place is not only unaware of the potential implications but neither are the representatives of the Lynn Valley Community Association or the Lynn Valley Seniors Association aware, it seems.

How under these circumstances any positive changes can take place is difficult to say. On the other hand this is one issue which will determine the outcome of a new direction. Another such issue is the continued subsidy by the District to the City of North Vancouver including playing fields and recreation facilities while our own facilities are deteriorating for lack of funding. These issues were addressed marginally at the meeting but unless the public cares it will be difficult to address them.

Lack of understanding about some of the fundamental issues are obvious by the questions put to the candidates by various community organizations in this present election. To put it bluntly, the level of awareness of civic strategic

issues in some areas is extremely poor - this is my opinion.

The bottom line is this; the CAO has made a good start to a higher level of thinking but unless the public supports these changes in a strategic manner, Council and Management alone will not be able to do very much. However, as I said, it remains to be seen. On the other hand, the key is still leadership by Council, the same as it always has been. So far so good.

Ernie Crist

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

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

Sent: October 21, 2004 8:16 PM

To: Mayor and Council - DNV

Cc: fonvca@fonvca.org; corrie@kost.ca

Subject: Lack of Appropriate Notification of Financial Plan Public Meetings

Your Worship & Members of Council,

As I am away on business I was unable to attend the council meeting of Oct 18th and thus I only became aware, by reviewing the council meeting posted on the web on Oct 21, that there was the first in a series of wor! kshops on the 2005-2009 financial plan on OCTOBER 19.

I feel that appropriate/timely notification of this meeting had not been given to allow the public to attend. In fact even the web site has no listing on the home page to anything related to the 2005-2009 financial plan. There is a reference to a 2004-2008 plan but one would not normally look there. So...to little, too late, and what was posted is inappropriate. Not a good start in my humble opinion.

Yours truly,

Corrie Kost

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