

**Subject: RE: Media Release - District appoints new Director**

**Date:** Fri, 23 Sep 2005 18:25:07 -0700

**From:** "Ernie Crist" <ernie\_crist@dnv.org>

**To:** "John Hunter" <hunterjohn@telus.net>

**CC:** <fonvca@fonvca.org>, "James Ridge" <James\_Ridge@dnv.org>, "Alan Nixon" <Alan\_Nixon@dnv.org>, "Jim Cuthbert" <Jim\_Cuthbert@dnv.org>, "Councillor Maureen McKeon Holmes" <mckeonholmes@telus.net>, "Richard Walton" <richard\_walton@dnv.org>, "Lisa Muri" <lisa\_muri@dnv.org>, "Mayor Harris" <Janice\_Harris@dnv.org>

John:

I do NOT disagree with you that we should not micromanage or make the actual selection. That is indeed the job of the CAO. What I did suggest and what I may not have emphasised enough is that the Council should have met prior to discuss the broad guidelines as to what we expect from our new Planner. For instance the new title is Director of Planning and Sustainability. I would have liked to know what the term sustainability means. I know what it means to me but what does it mean to the Planner?

As it is, I met with the new Planner and I am very impressed and wish her well. She certainly understands what the term means but does District Council? Does Harris who believes in Infilling? Does Council who believes in subdivisions ad infinitum and selling parkland?

The issue is of considerable importance since the future direction of community development in the District now hangs in the balance. The nice people of FONVCA who cannot get themselves to become "political" will be far too weak to stop the gallop towards higher density partly because to fight for something is not Fonvca's way nor is it the Canadian way and also because infilling ala Harris and higher density WILL provide a short term solution to the financial woes of the District brought about by Don Bell and his collaborators. It will be like the camel being allowed to stick its head into the tent.

Also in my opinion nobody on Council REALLY understands what sustainability really means anymore than the City of North Vancouver Council does racing ahead with high rises as it does while the District supplies the playing fields. I fear that the neighbourhood planning process will be ditched - not officially and ditched not with a bang but with a whimper. There will be a lot of breast beating and lamenting etc ., but the die is cast. If you don't move forward you move backward. If you are not totally committed to neighbourhood driven planning and if you are afraid of becoming "political" it is just a matter of time before the fox will find a way into the henhouse. However, it I'll turn it over to you John and the best of luck.

Cheers, Ernie

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From: John Hunter [<mailto:hunterjohn@telus.net>]

Sent: Friday, September 23, 2005 4:03 PM

To: Ernie Crist

Cc: fonvca@fonvca.org; James Ridge; Alan Nixon; Jim Cuthbert;

'Councillor Maureen McKeon Holmes'; Richard Walton; Ernie Crist; Lisa

Muri; Mayor Harris

Subject: RE: Media Release - District appoints new Director

Ernie sorry but I respectfully disagree. I sit on a number of boards and sat on five corporate boards. We pick the President and sign off on very senior appointments such as the CFO and COO. Below that level is micro-management for a board, which in my view you are as Council. If we do not trust the COO (or CAO in this case) to hire and fire, we best get a new CAO.

Mr. Ridge, if he had doubts, might choose to involve council in the criteria or process for the role, but NEVER in my view in the actual selection itself. That is, allow Council in certain special circumstances, if he saw the need, to input on the process, but not the results or interviews. That just opens it up to politics and favoritism and pet agendas.

John

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From: Ernie Crist [[mailto:ernie\\_crist@dnv.org](mailto:ernie_crist@dnv.org)]  
Sent: September 19, 2005 1:57 PM  
To: hunterjohn@telus.net  
Subject: FW: Media Release - District appoints new Director

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From: Ernie Crist  
Sent: Monday, September 19, 2005 12:55 PM  
To: fonvca@fonvca.org; 'mbragg@shaw.ca'  
Cc: Mayor and Council - DNV; Senior Management Committee; James Ridge  
Subject: FW: Media Release - District appoints new Director

A MESSAGE FROM ERNIE CRIST;

As you can see from the press release below the District of North Vancouver now has a new Planner. Her name is Ms Eckenfelder. I'd like to provide the following clarification regarding her appointment as the new "Director of Sustainability, Planning and Building". Council did not meet the new Planner officially and Councillors had no say of any kind in the hiring process.

Ms Eckenfelder, brings with her the most excellent credentials and may prove to be a real asset to the District. I for one will wish her the very best of luck in her new and challenging endeavour just as soon as I have an opportunity to do so. But this is not the issue. The issue is that this process was unusual even for the District of North Vancouver but then so also was during the last District Budget process, the appearance before Council of community groups requesting grants without Councillors having an opportunity to ask questions as to the rationale for their request of taxpayer's money. This included even big ticket items such as the \$ 6 million dollar subsidy to the Rec. Commission and funding for the Arts.

I did raise the issue about hiring the new Planner when Council was informed by the CAO that the hiring process was in progress and a person had been selected. I would have liked to meet Ms Eckenfelder at that time or before she was hired and ask her definition of "sustainability" and her take on community driven development as opposed to "infilling" spelled out by Janice Harris in one of her election leaflets. I would have wished to ask Ms Eckenfelder whether she agreed that the center of

Lynn Valley is a Pedestrian Oriented Town Center.

When Council was informed during an In Camera Meeting, I asked whether Council would be provided with an opportunity to have a say or whether there would be a discussion prior to making a final decision about our future planning objectives and how this might or should impact the hiring process. The response I got from Council, with Harris in the Chair, was similar to that of a person looking at the Lotto results following the draw only to realise that he/she was NOT a winner.

Council was quite content to accept the CAO's remarks that he had no objection to Council meeting with the new planner after she had been hired. Thus Council was not part of the selection process. The real issue is, however, that there was no prior discussion by Council what the term sustainability means as spelled out in the title of the new planner, either in the opinion of the Chief Administration Officer, Mr Ridge, or Ms Eckenfelder or even Council..

There was no discussion pertaining to any future broad planning philosophy, objectives or planning criteria for the District of North Vancouver. There was no debate as to what would be expected by Council of the new planner and the future of the Community Driven development process as practised in the District - a process, which has set the District apart from other municipalities in the Lower Mainland. This process, with the exception of Lynn Valley, broadly speaking, has been a success in the rest of the community.

On the other hand, the violation of that principle in Lynn Valley has cost not only Lynn Valley dearly but has impacted every other neighbourhood in the District. If you have any doubt I suggest you go to Keith and Mountain Highway or the approaches to the Iron Workers Memorial Bridge in the morning rush hour, or take a visit to the Lynn Valley Mall.

Ernie Crist

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From: Colleen Brow  
Sent: Monday, September 19, 2005 10:47 AM  
To: Mayor and Council - DNV; Senior Management Committee  
Cc: Janice Mooney; Daina Hibbard; Maureen Jones; Anne Greenwell  
Subject: Media Release - District appoints new Director

Hello,  
The attached News Release, introducing Margaret Eckenfelder as the District's new Director of Sustainability, Planning and Building, was distributed to the media this morning.

Colleen Brow  
Communication &  
Community Relations Officer

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For Immediate Release  
September 19, 2005

District of North Vancouver appoints new  
Director of Sustainability, Planning and Building

North Vancouver, B.C. The District of North Vancouver is pleased to announce the appointment of Ms. Margaret Eckenfelder as its new Director of Sustainability, Planning and Building.

Ms. Eckenfelder brings with her expertise in public consultation, leadership, government policy and legislation, and a thorough understanding of the dynamics and challenges of sustainable community planning. She has held leading positions with the provincial government including: Director, Aboriginal Affairs; Director, Strategic Management and Legislation, Government Policy and Communications Office; Assistant Deputy Minister, Environmental Protection; and most recently, Vice-President of Policy and Research with Workers' Compensation Board.

She holds Bachelor Degrees in Law and Political Science (Honours) and a Masters Degree in Public Administration.

"Ms. Eckenfelder brings to the District's Management team many years of public sector experience in Policy, Environmental Management and First Nations issues. Her private sector experience in financial services and law will also add considerably to the breadth of our management expertise," says Chief Administrative Officer, James Ridge.


Ms. Eckenfelder assumes her new position with the District on September 19, 2005.

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For more information, contact the District's  
Communications and Community Relations Office at 604-990-2459.

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4N5 / Tel: 604-987-7131 / Web: [www.dnv.org](http://www.dnv.org)

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