

Subject: [Fwd: Mountain Biking is not a crime.]

Date: Sun, 06 Feb 2005 20:24:33 -0800

From: Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>

To: Corrie Kost <kost@triumf.ca>

Subject: Mountain Biking is not a crime.

Date: Fri, 04 Feb 2005 13:00:30 -0800

From: Dan Skog <dan.skogland@gmail.com>

To: fonvca@fonvca.org

Good day,

I cannot fathom how your discussion about Residential parking complainants have fuelled the personal crusade of one Ernie Crist. It is clear he is unreasonable and unwilling to accept another position; it's his way or the highway.

Clearly, the environmental aspects of this discussion are moot. If the DNV will allow countless developments to encroach on the habits of native animals and displace them, surely a network of trails with acres of forest doesn't have a tenth the impact these developments do. I pray money doesn't talk.

For Mr. Crist to claim that Mountain Biker's owe him or the district money is ludicrous! We are more than willing to pay for parking, but the amount of man hours dedicated to preserving the environment by NSMBA dwarfs that of any other user group.

Biking is an Olympic sport, whose athletes are worth supporting. Tourists come from all over to ride the shore, spend hard earned money at local businesses, aren't these things you would welcome? We are an outlet for teens to stay away from drugs and violence, yet we are being persecuted for enjoying a recreation activity?

The following is from Ernie Crist, which clearly shows he is not objective, and unwilling to have the necessary patience when dealing with an issue that has no scientific information to back his knee jerk reaction.

Mayor and Council:

The pitfalls of moving ahead without knowing where and why on Mountain Biking. It is like Bush walking into an environmental Iraq.

A moratorium of mountain biking in all forested areas of the District (as in Europe) is an excellent idea until we know what and where this issue will lead to, until we have a better understanding of what we can expect in terms of environmental damage if we allow it to continue, until we know whether the private sector and or the GVRD and or a combination of both are interested, whether we want to risk the ruination of trails, how much it will cost including not just parking, trail construction and maintenance but also policing and ongoing staff costs, what projects we are willing to give up from the budget to accommodate this extreme sport and until we have recovered the money the mountain bikers owe us for the damage already done.

Seems to me the responsible way to proceed is to think first and act after rather than the other way around.

Ernie Crist

His unwillingness to allow the time for the necessary studies to be undertaken is appalling, he wants Mountain Biking to be stopped long before any conclusive information is gathered. He believes that a sport which has existed for over 20 years will suddenly ruin the North Shore Mountains. How can one person's opinion possibly determine the outcome of this? This process has gone from Residents complaining about a parking issue to the legitimacy of Mountain Biking.

I Plead with your council to be reasonable, don't give in to Mr. Crist's knee jerk reaction. Allow the necessary time to figure out what can really be done, not just go on one person's delusions. Mountain biker's are not akin to Satan as stated by Ernie, however we are members of your community and more so, we do not deserve the treatment and slandering generalizations Mr. Crist continues to make.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter. Sincerely, Dan Skogland.