

Subject: [Fwd: FW: FW: Sad Evening for District of North Vancouver Residents]

Date: Sun, 13 Feb 2005 12:31:25 -0800

From: Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>

To: Corrie Kost <kost@triumf.ca>

Subject: FW: FW: Sad Evening for District of North Vancouver Residents

Date: Sun, 13 Feb 2005 10:02:02 -0800

From: Ernie Crist <ernie_crist@dnv.org>

To: fonvca@fonvca.org, Cagebc@yahoo.com

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

From: Ernie Crist

Sent: Sunday, February 13, 2005 12:00 AM

Subject: RE: FW: Sad Evening for District of North Vancouver Residents

Dear Mr....

I must apologize to you for playing devil's advocate. No decision has been made and the item will come back to Council for further debate. I had and have no intention to support charging parking fees. My comments were geared to wake up the public and judging by the response we got so far, people seem to care enough so that the effort can be defeated at least for the time being.

As for your other questions, I am afraid you mistake the District with other municipalities in the Region. We are operating from an entirely different perspective. Our growth is not developer driven nor is it GVRD, Provincial or Federal Government driven. It is neighbourhood and community driven. This sets us apart from all other communities in the Lower Mainland. If it would not be for this concept, the District today would resemble the West End for the simple reason that the District is a highly desirable place to live. Needless to say it is a constant struggle and a great challenge.

The District growth philosophy, as spelled out in our Community Plan and policy statements, is based on sustainable development which is not nimbi'ism. It is the neighbourhoods themselves who decide what kind of development and how much is needed to fill their needs. It is the sum total of the neighbourhood plans which, in turn, translate into the Community Plan. Your language and your ideas appear to be based on a different concept.

However, as far as the issues you have raised are concerned, this is a separate matter and has nothing to do with slow, manageable or sustainable growth although on the surface it might appear to be strongly related. To put it another way, growth does not in itself translate into benefits, on the contrary it saddles communities with debts. The concrete jungle is not cheap and is no panacea for anything including fiscal.

The only time growth and/or development is beneficial is when it is based on community needs. The fact that in the District we don't have enough money is not because of our slow growth but because of extremely poor management plus the fact the people of the District did not care to do anything about it when it was pointed out repeatedly and in a thousand different ways.

Suffice it to say that they did not move a finger when their Heritage Fund was liquidated with little or nothing to show for it - when their taxes went from the second lowest in the region inside of 12 years to the second highest and when the Reserve Fund which stood at \$ 91 million in 1997 was liquidated for the same reason. One of the biggest issues

facing the public at the moment by way of example is the whole question of public recreation and recreation facilities and the imminent threat to have them privatized. I have warned the public repeatedly. The implications will be horrendous. Indeed they will be far more serious than parking fees in our parks. But so far it is going right over the public's head.

At the last open to the public budget meeting and with an opportunity for the public to speak there were 4 people present and the time before, there was one. The truth is that the people in North Van District do not and did not seem to care. They appeared to be more interested in what is going on in Ottawa, Victoria or even Somalia than in what went on or is going on in their own community. The only time they care or so it seems is if it affects them directly and in front of their own door figuratively speaking.

To address the issues which you have raised, I have put forward more initiatives over the years than the rest of the District Council including the Mayor put together. But the results have been meagre, for if nobody cares, politicians have no incentive to change the status quo or NOT to play to special interests. There is an old saying which fits the occasion "you can lead the horse to the water but.....". The item will come before Council and you will have an opportunity to speak for 2 minutes to Council directly. Also there is FONVCA, the Federation of North Vancouver Community Associations. Should you ever wish to participate in the various aspects of community planning, you may wish to get in touch with your own neighbourhood or community association. Still, I thank you for your input and for your expressed concern.

Yours truly,

Ernie Crist

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

From:

Sent: Saturday, February 12, 2005 8:52 PM

To: Ernie Crist

Subject: Re: FW: Sad Evening for District of North Vancouver Residents

Dear Mr. Crist, if it goes against your principals to charge parking fees for public parks then why didn't you vote against it ? I find what is lacking in the district is an overall plan for the future. It appears in bits and pieces but there doesn't seem to be an overall plan. To me it is just plain common sense that as more people move to the North Shore you have to increase the places for them to park. You have to improve the road structures, improve the bus system, improve the way people get across the North Shore, add a new bridge ... the list goes on ... I have also observed over the years as a tax payer that the rate increase for the next years budget has already been determined when you receive the tax notice. The increase in monthly tax payments reflects the rate increase for next years budget when it is passed. I think it is important to say No once in a while ... I was disappointed that you didn't. Have a great rest of the weekend,

Dave

Ernie Crist wrote:

> Dear Mr.....

>

> Charging for parking goes against my principle too. However, I voted
> in favour because the argument for or against parking fees is academic

> in any case and so is the argument that we are already paying for it
> through our taxes. It is academic since parking spaces will be limited

> to such an extent that it makes no difference one way or another.

> There will not be sufficient parking and the demand will grow rapidly
> regardless.
>
> As a result there will be parking on streets and that means that we
> will have to implement residents parking only regardless. That too is
> inevitable. As a North Shore resident you can at least buy a ticket
> for \$20 per year which will give you a better chance to get a parking
> place since it will discourage people from other jurisdictions
> bringing their cars. Also, it will be an incentive for the District to
> build more parking spaces which will not happen otherwise.

> Yours truly,
>
> Ernie Crist.

> If you can argue with my reasoning I will be glad to listen.

> -----Original Message-----

> From:
> Sent: Monday, February 07, 2005 11:27 PM
> To: DNV Council
> Subject: Sad Evening for District of North Vancouver Residents

> Dear Mayor and Council Members, I was deeply saddened by your decision

> this evening to charge parking fees for Lynn Canyon, Cates and
> Panorama Parks. I watched intently as the vote took place and I hoped
> that other council members would vote with Lisa Muri and Jim Cuthbert
> to defeat the motion. But no !! How can you justify in your hearts the

> very idea of charging parking fees for public parks that for years up
> until tonight were free ? I am truly disappointed in your reasoning
> and your lack of courage to say no. I am going to try and be there at
> council and I will ask the same question during public input. What do
> I tell my children happened to the free park system in North Vancouver

> District ? I have been a resident of the North Vancouver District for
> 32 years. I enjoyed taking my out of town guests to Cates Park and
> Lynn Canyon Park. Now I will do what I do with Stanley Park and that
> is drive through and do not stop in what used to be a public park. I
> ask you what is next, will you have to pay an admission charge to the
> parks ? It is truly a sad evening for North Vancouver residents. Do we

> not pay the highest taxes in the lower mainland ? What are they for ?
> I thought public parks were for the benefit of all. I guess I was
> wrong. Take care,

> David.....

> --
> David
> North Vancouver, BC
> 604

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