

Subject: FW: Alpine Recreational Strategic Plan

Date: Tue, 18 Oct 2005 22:46:50 -0700

From: "Ernie Crist" <ernie_crist@dnv.org>

To: <fonvca@fonvca.org>

Dear Mr Stowell:

Your comments are very appropriate and indicate a high level of awareness as to what is going on. I commend you and will pass this information on to as many people as I can.

Yours truly,

Ernie Crist

From: Bill Stowell [<mailto:billstowell@shaw.ca>]

Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2005 9:15 PM

To: Mayor and Council - DNV

Subject: Alpine Recreational Strategic Plan

Madam Mayor and Members of Council:

On Monday October 17, 2005 a motion was approved which endorsed the vision and principals of the Alpine Recreational Strategic Study. By doing so, Council has taken on the responsibility of being proprietor for the mountain biking industry and this has been done without a firm partnership in place and without a commitment from any other stakeholders. There was outrage in 2003 and again in early 2005 when it was suggested that two parking lots be constructed at a cost of \$875,000 but it appears from the language of the Staff report that it is only a matter of time before a proposal will again be placed before Council for such funding. In this regard, I refer to item 1.4 of the report which reads in part... "and work toward long term parking and staging areas into the Alpine area, particularly in the Western Section and Fromme Mountain".

I have nothing against mountain biking but I continue to maintain that we (the District) cannot afford what is being undertaken and I find it very troubling that Councillor Crist is the only Council member to recognize this. I reiterate what I stated previously, the Alpine Recreational Strategic Study has taken on a life of its own and somehow we got from undertaking a review of a parking problem in Upper Lynn Valley to funding and now endorsing a plan with a multitude of motherhood visions but no real fixed costs or predetermined source of funding.

We are now much further down the "slippery slope" to funding an initiative that we cannot afford. Managing our resources in one thing, taking on all what is included in the Alpine Study is simply not realistic.

For your information I include below the contents of an email that I sent to Council on February 2, 2005. My position has not changed.

Bill Stowell
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February 2nd email as follows:

Madam Mayor and Members of Council:

I did not attend the January 31, 2005 Council Meeting but I listened to it carefully on the DNV web site. It is apparent to me that the Alpine Recreation Strategic Study has taken on a life of its own which I find

very disturbing. From the extensive motion that was passed at the June 23, 2003 Council Meeting when the study was initiated (item 3 of the motion), it is clear that the study was to include a multi-jurisdictional review of mountain biking on the North Shore with a number of other parties including the GVRD, B.C. Parks etc. I do not believe that it was a foregone conclusion that mountain biking was or is to be accommodated within the District. DNV Staff has done a lot of work, perhaps too much, and we are now a long way down the road (slippery slope) to accommodating mountain biking and it appears so whether we like it or not. The fact is, the District of North Vancouver cannot, and should not, be taking on the responsibility of being the proprietor to the mountain bike industry. Unfortunately, Councillor Crist seems to be the only Council member to recognize this. Mountain biking may well become an industry not unlike skiing or snowboarding and as such should be supported by private industry. Would we open Fromme mountain to a commercial enterprise? I think not, yet we seem prepared or at least are heading toward financially supporting an industry that likely cannot be accommodated within our boundaries.


Members of Council, it is time to sit back and take a hard look at where we are and where we are going. This situation is not unlike the Lynn Valley library project which started out as one thing and is ending up to be quite another i.e. we thought we were getting a new town centre which included a new library with community space. We will end up being nothing more than the landlord for additional retail space with a library stuck on at the end.

In regard to the subject, the following points should be considered:

1. This is about mountain biking despite what has been said. An Alpine study would not have been necessary (at least not at this time) were it not for the parking and other conflicts created by mountain bikers in the Upper Lynn Valley Area.
2. The last part of item 3 of the June 23, 2003 motion has been glossed over in the Alpine review. Part of item 3 read "This process includes a multi-jurisdictional review of mountain biking on the North Shore with GVRD, BC Parks, District of West Vancouver etc. etc.....to identify sites with developed park infrastructure and site conditions that support downhill mountain biking, and may support private/public economic opportunities". How did we get from looking into possibilities and alternatives to supporting mountain biking. There was no appetite for building a parking lot in 2003, why should there be now?
3. There is and should be some significance to the fact that mountain biking is banned in some jurisdictions as noted by Councillor Crist.
4. Remember the saying: If you build it, people will come. Build one parking lot and mountain bikers from all over the lower mainland will come. What do we do then....build another parking lot? At what cost to residents? Where? What about the sustainability of the mountains and hillsides?

Council members of the day scoffed at the statements made by Councillor Crist in a 2002 or 2003 council meeting (I could look it up) when he said something to the effect that providing facilities for mountain bikers should not be our responsibility just because we have a mountain that lends itself to this activity. I agreed with his thoughts at the time and I still do. While he may appear dogmatic in his position to the frustration of other Council members and some members of the public, I believe that he brings a valuable insight to what is and will continue to be a major problem for residents. Is it not the residents that should get consideration? Not just the residents in close proximity to the hillsides but residents who will have to foot the bill for parking lots, patrols, liability claims, environmental damage and more studies.

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