

Subject: RE: Small point from last nights council meeting

Date: Tue, 18 Oct 2005 22:40:09 -0700

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

To: <judywcox@shaw.ca>

CC: <mecraver@shaw.ca>, <fonvca@fonvca.org>, "Mayor and Council - DNV" <Council@dnv.org>, "Senior Management Committee" <managecomm@dnv.org>, "James Ridge" <James_Ridge@dnv.org>

Dear Ms Waywood -Cox:

I must confess your comments came somewhat as a surprise to me. I am fully cognisant that the Council of the District has every intention of keeping you out of the loop. But you can change that. There are people in your area who have done their very best to keep everyone informed. Obviously some improvement in the communication process is required. I think it is best if you keep in mind that notwithstanding your impression of a well balanced Council this Council is 90% pro Mountain Biker oriented regardless of the cost to the neighbourhood and or to the taxpayers at large. I sincerely hope that my comments were helpful in conveying that to the public. If not, than I failed in my task.

I strongly suggest that the Upper Lynn Valley Community Association has enough members to keep you informed. I believe the stronger the Association, the better Council will listen and the better the chances of maintaining the liveability of your neighbourhood.

At this moment there are developments in the making which will have an enormous impact on your neighbourhood and the adjacent Mountains. Once again, I strongly suggest you form a strong association to have a voice. I am sure that Mrs. Craver who lives in your area can give you all kinds of advice as to how to go about this. There is also FONVCA, the Federation of North Vancouver Community Associations which can be of great help. Mrs Craver knows how to get in touch with them. In any case the spokesperson of your Association did very well last night in making Council aware of your concerns. I thought it was a good start.

The thing to remember is that when your opponents are well organised in the pursuit of their objective than you have to strive to be even better organised to counter them. What is at stake is your liveability and your investment in this liveability.

Yours truly,

Ernie Crist

From: Judy [<mailto:judywcox@shaw.ca>]

Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2005 8:27 PM

To: Jim Cuthbert; Mayor Harris; Lisa Muri; Maureen McKeon Holmes; Ernie Crist; Richard Walton; Alan Nixon

Cc: herbh@sfu.ca; 'Upper Lynn Residents Association'

Subject: Small point from last nights council meeting

Madam Mayor, Councillers,

There was some concern on the part of coucillers last night that Upper Lynn Residents felt left out. I just wanted to take a minute to let you know why residents in the Upper Lynn community feel left out.

In the beginning (two years ago) there were letters (I think three in total) informing us that the topic was on the agenda for the council meeting. That is how many of us found out about the issue in the first place and rallied in such mass at the council chambers. In my opinion this (sending out letters to households) is the right thing for council to do, it is open and honest and invites participation and free discussion.


As the issue progressed (over the years), other than invitations to open houses, there was no formal notification of when this issue would be discussed before council. Unfortunately we did not have an organized body and there was no one party for council to communicate with. It seemed that as individuals we found out about events quite by accident. I even took the step of telling someone at one of the meetings (staff member) my email address so that I could be informed when this topic came up. I was only informed via email on one occassion where this topic was before council. I was not informed of last nights meeting via email from staffl.

Speaking on behalf of my immediate neighbours, we feel that we are notified of important events affecting us in a haphazard manner, that is why we feel left out. In the end it is very simple. As residents we are for the most part hard working individuals with families to raise and little time to devote to reading the district website to see what is coming up on the agenda - constantly checking that the Alpine Recreation study isn't on the agenda. We as taxpayers felt we deserved some respect with some notification from council on matters that affect us whether we were organized into an association or not. We are not asking you to send out expensive letters, but to put a process in place with an email list (I can assure you that everyone I know that is concerned about this issue has an email address) so that we can be properly notified. I don't think it is particularly hard or expensive and am sure that staff could manage this. I know that there are neighbours who are not members of the association (maybe the didn't get the letter from the association) who want to be informed. As council I don't think you can rely on volunteer organizations to do your due diligence for you. As council I would send a letter to the householders in the affected areas asking for their email address if they wish to be informed. You will receive back the email addresses of the people that care about the issue.

Before closing, I do want to thank you very much for spending your time last night to debate this topic. I came away from the meeting reflecting on the process and felt invigorated by our democracy. I felt that everyone on council who spoke on this matter had very good points and the matter was debated in a mature, even handed manner. I commend you all and thank you for your service to the community.

Regards

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