

Subject: [Fwd: Mt. Fromme mountain biking motion]

Date: Sun, 22 May 2005 19:08:47 -0700

From: Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>

To: Corrie Kost <kost@triumf.ca>

Subject: Mt. Fromme mountain biking motion

Date: Mon, 16 May 2005 13:02:28 -0700 (PDT)

From: Randy Savoie <randy_savoie@yahoo.com>

To: council@dnv.org

CC: fonvca@fonvca.org

Dear Members of the Council:

I am writing to voice my opposition to Ernie Crist's motion to ban mountain biking on Mt. Fromme. For the record, I am a 45 year old technology management professional, an eight year resident of the North Shore and I have been mountain biking for four years. In general, I support the balanced use of our resources, neither totally restricting access nor do I endorse total freedom of use either.

Councillor Crist claims that the NSMBA has continued with the construction of more trails of Mt. Fromme. I am not aware of any new trails that they have built but I am aware that there have been some illegal jump parks have been built (and torn down) but these are not endorsed or supported by the NSMBA nor do I support or use any illegal trails.

The motion banning mountain biking will not stop illegal trails being built and in fact, by legally banning mountain biking, you will now remove people (members of the NSMBA) who are in the best position to find out about these trails and help eliminate them. Most mountain bikers do not endorse illegal trails as it can cause problems such as this current motion which threatens all use of the mountain. Council does not have the resources or budgets to sufficiently police the trails once they are closed down (and even while they are open for that matter) and should work with those who interests are in promoting good mountain biking practices on Mt. Fromme (the NSMBA). Focus on strengthening the partnership with the NSMBA and looking to them as a resource to help in the management of the trails on Mt. Fromme, not tearing the relationship apart as Councillor Crist proposes to do.

It appears that Councillor Crist is very frustrated with the pace of completion of the Alpine Study. Nothing in his motion addresses this problem. This is the process by which Council has endorsed and the motion penalizes the mountain bikers of Mt. Fromme, who have no control over the study's completion. Council should address the completion of the study in a timely fashion (maybe this is what Councillor Crist really has in mind?), not banning mountain biking.

Mountain biking is a source of revenue, jobs and great PR throughout the world for the North Shore communities and a great source of pleasure for those of us who participate in this sport. Focus the Council's energy on developing a plan, one that is based on the principles under which Council operates, that of public consultation and debate, not alienation and acrimony.

Respectively submitted,

Randy Savoie

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