

Subject: Re: DNV Economic Development/Tourism Initiative NoM - July 18th DNV Council Mtg

Date: Thu, 21 Jul 2005 08:06:34 -0700

From: Lyle Craver <lcraver@shaw.ca>

To: Jim Cuthbert <Jim_Cuthbert@dnv.org>, andersen@sagafc.com, Council Remuneration <wrtracey@telus.net>, corrie@kost.ca, bplatts@shaw.ca, fonvca@fonvca.org, aacockle@shaw.ca, hunterjohn@telus.net

My main comment to your notice of motion is that it seems to be an omnibus measure designed to cover four major issues at once:

- 1) the role of the NV Chamber of Commerce
- 2) Commercial taxation and
- 3) the NVCC marketing plan for tourism.
- 4) improving the DNV permitting system

One can reasonably argue concerning the merits of each of these.

I see the NVCC as being primarily a tourism lobbying group and not a group that at all attempts to represent the interests of local stores particularly those like ourselves who operate on a national scale from our North Vancouver base. Not that there's anything wrong with that but it would be unwise to give them credit for representing groups they do not in fact represent. Certainly while I've seen their fliers through my door I've not seen anything that would consider encourage me to seek membership as compared to groups like the BC Retail Merchants Association or Canadian Federation of Independant Business. If NVCC has members on the Pemberton Avenue strip it's news to me.

Commercial taxation is a province-wide issue and is in fact the issue I'm most disturbed by my MLA's reluctance to take on. On a more global level I question whether municipal taxation on the basis of property values is an appropriate way to tap the commercial market since most businesses like mine are on 3 or 5 year triple net leases and thus we are entirely at the mercy of the BC Assessment Authority. The June 30th workshop was a good stab at clearing the air though I'm not sure DNV financial staff or the Assessment Authority understands the issues. My impression was (based both on the workshop and subsequent conversations with Nicole Deveaux at CBFAC) Nicole is trying fairly hard though she has not totally "got it" yet - her perspective seems to be more property manager oriented than that of actually operating a business. She deserves credit for that though I would not extend that credit to the Assessment Authority since I don't think their rep either understood or cared to understand the whole issue. In particular I don't think Nicole understands that the main reason my business stays on the North Shore (and has for nearly 30 years) is that I myself like living here - and am not keen to do a bridge commute and that I could move my business simply by making a few phone calls and that there are in fact solid business reasons why Richmond or Delta would be a superior location to do the kind of business I do.

A follow-up meeting would definitely be a good thing since while June 30th was a pretty good meeting and somewhat cleared the air I don't think we're firmly pointed in the right direction yet.

The marketing plan is a reasonable idea though it needs to be clear that DNV/CNV/DWV is NOT well served in the accomodation area. I also was not impressed with the role of Nancy Stibbard of Capilano Suspension Bridge in their marketing presentation since I think Nancy single-handedly killed the Lynn Valley Greenheart project by her Skywalk project. Capitalism is a wonderful thing and thus this would be fine if she had done it the proper way by getting her permits first and building later rather than what she in fact did. I have to say that if this is the kind of activity the NVCC supports then I shake my head. That one decision alone is THE issue where I feel Council most dropped the ball during the present term of office since it typifies the "build it now, get your permits later and DNV will forgive you and regularize what you have done" that I see as typical of far too many Development Variance Permit applications on Monday night. I have not kept statistics but it would seem that at least half of the DVPs involve some form of "regularizing existing construction" which is completely backwards from what it should be.

Improving the permitting application definitely needs to be addressed. My impression is that this would help a lot. At present my main beef on this issue is the commercial bike camps who at this time of year DAILY do their thing on the sidewalk inches from my property and this needs to be addressed. The bottom line is that in this area at least DNV is NOT enforcing the Parks bylaw requirement that commercial activities utilizing park lands (all of you know which park I am referring to) require commercial permits. I certainly do not think commercial enterprises should be staging their activities on residential curbs!

In any case DNV seems to have a poor rating amongst GVRD municipalities in how quickly commercial permits and we definitely should do what we can.

There's a lot of meat in Jim's NOM but I think it would be better to split the issues and do them separately. Trying to do them all as a single NOM is overkill.

Best regards,

Lyle Craver

4797 Hoskins Road

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

From: "Jim Cuthbert" <Jim_Cuthbert@dnv.org>

To: <andersen@sagafc.com>; "Council Remuneration" <wrtracey@telus.net>; <corrie@kost.ca>; <bplatts@shaw.ca>; <fonvca@fonvca.org>; <lcraver@shaw.ca>; <aacockle@shaw.ca>; <hunterjohn@telus.net>

Sent: Monday, July 18, 2005 12:01 AM

Subject: FYI: DNV Economic Development/Tourism Initiative NoM - July 18th DNV Council Mtg

From: Jim Cuthbert

Sent: Sun 7/17/2005 11:49 PM

To: wayne@nvchamber.bc.ca; suecope@radiant.net; rbolus@ceiarchitecture.com; nancyprivate@capbridge.com; plan@amaaryllisevents.com

Subject: FYI: DNV Economic Development/Tourism Initiative NoM - July 18th

DNV Council Mtg

Wayne, Heather, Nancy, Sue and Robert - for your reference. I intend to have the attached Notice of Motion both introduced and debated at the end of our Regular Council meeting tomorrow night (July 18th) (since it's time sensitive due to the pending staffing of the DNV Economic Development Officer position) and therefore would appreciate a comment in support of the motion during Public Input between 6:00pm and 6:30pm July 18th at the Municipal Hall. Please email/call with questions/comments.

Jim C.

Jim Cuthbert MSc. RPBio.

Councillor

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