

Subject: [Fwd: Ms Donna Stewart is taking Ernie Crist to task.]
From: Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>
Date: Mon, 22 Oct 2007 10:51:23 -0700
To: Corrie Kost <kost@triumf.ca>

Subject: Ms Donna Stewart is taking Ernie Crist to task.
From: Ernie Crist <criste@shaw.ca>
Date: Mon, 22 Oct 2007 05:23:25 -0700
To: fonvca <fonvca@fonvca.org>
CC: fluba@png.canwest.com

Ms Donna Stewart, a member of the Capilano Community Association, has taken me to task for my opposition to the planned high-rises in Lynn Valley.

Ms Stewart maintains that “the letters the North Shore OUTLOOK has printed so far about the public open house at the end of the Lynn Valley Town Center Charrette is sobering, even sad.”

However, it is my contention that it is the propaganda of the spin doctors which is “sad”. It reminds me of the time when the Lynn Valley Core was densified the first time. It too was done to provide “affordable housing for seniors and young people” not to mention all the other goodies including designated bicycle lanes.

Please take note, Donna, that only one in ten of the occupants in these new and “affordable” units were from the North Shore. Also note that the number of “affordable” units was less after densification than before. The same with Whiteley Court where renters paying \$1,100 a month were evicted to make room for renters paying \$1,600 a month once finished. Do you understand now why I am cringing when I hear the word affordable?

“There is so much fear of change in these letters” you say Donna. “And so little concern for seniors who need to downsize, or for younger folk who need affordable housing in order to raise their families”. You are right, Donna and why when on Council I made many initiatives to build truly affordable housing for both old and young. I suggested that a modest 5% of all District land sold be used for co-op housing. But you know what, Donna? No takers and no outcry from your housing committee either.

“And such exaggeration” you say Donna: “How does Ernie Crist get thousands of cars out of a maximum of 1,400 dwelling units, some for low income people?” Well Donna it is simple arithmetic. But also, it seems you forgot the planned underground parking for another 2100 cars up from the present 700 above ground stalls.

And you continue Donna, “Back in 2001, the median income of district homeowners was \$79,955. Ernie calls that poor? The 675 renters in the district putting more than 50% of their income towards shelter costs would love to be so poor” I agree Donna, except I never said such a thing in my life. But back to your letter.

“The district renter’s average income is \$20,524 but we need them. Some work in the hospital, but we have already allowed a great many of the affordable housing units they have occupied to be demolished”. My sentiments exactly Donna.

To sum up I don't understand you Donna, on one hand you push for affordable housing, but with the other hand you are pushing high-rises with little or no effect except of getting a few crumbs at best. For this, the developers love you dearly Donna.

However, I can assure you creating a few units is not the way to solve the housing crisis or enhance liveability. Indeed, in the absence of convenient, cheap and efficient public transportation which is nowhere in sight, any talk about sustainability is nothing but spin. I do note that you did not speak up when Council turned down the Norgate Bus Depot.

But allow me to be constructive Donna and repeat my previous and real solution. It is simple and to the point. You solve the housing crisis by building housing at prices those in need can afford and not just for the few the developers have offered to obtain your blessing for high-rises but for all who are in need. That might be dicey. The developers and their servants would not like it. On the other hand, pushing for real solutions rather than gimmicks is what separates the wheat from the chaff as Harry Rankin used to say.

Ms Donna Stewart is taking Ernie Crist to task..eml

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