

Subject: Fwd: Déjà vu?
From: Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>
Date: 28/02/2015 5:30 PM
To: Corrie Kost <corrie@kost.ca>

No post. FONVCA review.

----- Forwarded Message -----

Subject: Déjà vu?
Date: Sat, 28 Feb 2015 11:21:15 -0800
From: Monica Craver <mecraver@shaw.ca>
To: DNV Mayor and Council <council@dnv.org>
CC: Susan Rogers <rogerss@dnv.org>, Gavin Joyce <JoyceG@dnv.org>, fonvca@fonvca.org

Dear Mayor and Council:

As I write this, I have watched as a couple mountain biker groups of up to a dozen riders entered Mountain View Park. A reason why I can no longer enjoy a quiet weekend hike on the trails on Fromme, across my own street. My hearing loss makes it unsafe for me to hike on "shared" trails. I also find I have to be careful on my own street sidewalks, as some mountain bikers claim "ownership" to those sidewalks, too.

Meanwhile, in the Marin County, California "birthplace of mountain biking", the hiker-biker conflicts continue...and there are sooo many mountain bikers riding the trails and Mountain View Park on Fromme, now -- especially on weekends and holidays. What happens after the two parking lots are built? Will the biker street parking end? Highly doubtful. Mayor Walton's "Coney Island" nightmare is already in motion.

<http://www.marinij.com/general-news/20150227/hiker-treated-for-injuries-after-confrontation-with-mountain-biker-in-terra-linda-open-space>

"A 65-year-old female hiker was treated for injuries at a local hospital after a violent confrontation with a male mountain biker on an open space trail near Terra Linda, Marin County officials said Friday."

A Marin police report stated:

"Since 2010, Marin County Parks has hosted 16 public meetings about road and trail safety and improving visitor experiences. It has developed a Road and Trail Management Plan that establishes a sustainable system of roads and trails, and reducing the environmental impact on sensitive resources, habitats, riparian areas and special-status plant and animal species."

Doug Pittman
LIEUTENANT / PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER
Marin County Sheriff

Different places. Same problems remain. 😞 "Like DNV. Like Marin." Sadly.

I seriously have to question DNV's allowing the NSMBA to form a "Watchmen" group, while further dialogue about the balance of trail use is in the works. This is a bad idea developed by the NSMBA/DNV, that will turn into a self-interest "policing" group who will only create further conflicts on the trails between hikers and bikers over time. Mountain bikers already informally report broken structures and other concerns on the trails, so what is the need of such a "Watchmen" group who will be "inducted into service" by the NSMBA, according to a NS News' NSMBA PR article? Inducted? Really? Some people can see through the thin veneer of a very dangerous idea...

Remember what the NSMBA stand for, first, and foremost: "An organization dedicated to the preservation of trails for bikers on the North Shore of Vancouver." (Google)

This only leaves me feeling even more unsettled about the growing political power and clout being given to one very strong-armed self-interest group!

The NSMBA have already formed a Builders Academy, which produce the Shore Corps. What kind of "quasi-militaristic ownership" of trails and forests is DNV allowing one very strong-armed self-interest sports groups anyhow? This is not a way forward toward alleviating conflicts between various trail users, at all.

Please nix the whole NSMBA-based "Watchmen" group, and give the sole management of the forest to the future forest rangers (that DNV is hiring soon?). The NSMBA is not doing anyone any favours with their "Watchmen" group.

--Monica Craver--

Tread softly! All the earth is holy ground.
~ Christina Rossetti (Psalm 24),
from "A Later Life: A Double Sonnet of Sonnets"