

Subject: On last night's meeting re Capilano Community Center.

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A MESSAGE FROM ERNIE CRIST

While I was listening to the justified lament of the representatives of the Pemberton, Lower Capilano, Lions Gate and Norgate Community Associations at last night's meeting regarding their long overdue Community Center or lack thereof, I composed a motion to move the whole matter forward. The motion was similar to the one I had made a week before without success.

My motion, I thought, was clear and to the point. The parameters were flexible enough to give staff sufficient leeway to address this issue while, at the same time, they were specific enough to give staff clear directions. Alas there was no support. I even had difficulties getting a seconder to debate it. This is after 10 years of talk and a 3 million dollar fund from the 1996 referendum now worth \$ 1,5 million and shrinking steadily.

This item has been a political football with the result that, after many years of talking, the people within this catchment area still haven't got their center. In the meantime the District has squandered hundreds of million of dollars from the Heritage Fund, from the Infrastructure Reserve Funds and the taxes have gone from one of the lowest in the Lower Mainland to the second highest.

I cannot put all the blame on the District since the neighborhoods themselves have been disunited. Still the main fault DOES lie with the District and its Mayor and Council for failing to provide any kind of meaningful leadership. Last night was no exception. The Mayor poured cold water on my motion because "one Councillor was not present". I don't think he would have done so had I been absent. It did come to a vote, however, and there was no support.

This is what I said in my preamble.


Lower Capilano, Pemberton, Norgate and Lions Gate need a community center with no less than 50,000 square feet. We have \$ 3 million dollars from the 1996 referendum which is now worth \$ 1,5 million in 1996 dollars and that is not enough to do justice to this area.

My motion is that we turn this matter over to staff for proposals to come back by no later than May 2003 with the following terms of reference

- 1) the proposed community center will serve the Pemberton, Capilano, Lions Gate and Norgate area
- 2) it will be similar in size to Parkgate but not less than 50,000 square feet
- 3) the staff report will contain proposals for a site and a financial plan with the terms based on
 - a) the 1996 referendum money
 - b) possible public private partnership
 - c) the Heritage Fund or a combination of all three options

AS IS STATED, THE MOTION DID NOT CARRY - I tried and the rest is up to the people themselves. Victory lies not in apologizing but in demanding what is rightfully yours. Above all victory lies in unity - in disunity there is defeat.

Ernie Crist

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