

Subject: [Fwd: Re: Mountain Bike Race on April 25 on Lower Fromme Road.]

Date: Wed, 21 Apr 2004 15:08:05 -0700

From: Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>

To: Corrie Kost <kost@triumf.ca>

Subject: RE: Mountain Bike Race on April 25 on Lower Fromme Road.

Date: Wed, 21 Apr 2004 20:07:05 +0100 (BST)

From: Elizabeth James <cagebc@yahoo.com>

To: Ernie Crist <ernie_crist@dnv.org>, James Ridge <James_Ridge@dnv.org>, "FONVCA (E-mail)" <fonvca@fonvca.org>, Cagebc@yahoo.com, m.bragg@shaw.ca

CC: Mayor and Council - DNV <Council@dnv.org>, Senior Management Committee <managemcomm@dnv.org>, Susan Rogers <Susan_Rogers@dnv.org>, Irwin Torry <Irwin_Torry@dnv.org>, Richard Boulton <Richard_Boulton@dnv.org>

21 April 2004

Dear Clr. Crist:

I find myself in the uncomfortable position of being half-on and half-off the fence. However, that should not be interpreted as "sitting" on the fence!

You, Mr. Ridge and others will have received my previous email re mountain-biking and I stand by what I said. However, I do not believe Ms. Rogers should be held to account for the fact that District Policy and Council [in]decisions have been insufficient to deal with this type of circumstance. In this regard, I am happy that Mr. Ridge expresses public support for staff actions.

That said, it does not address the entire scope of the problem. Over and over again, we hear news items which tell of Vancouver City Council considering a parade or fireworks events, of NV City considering an Iranian Festival, or WV Council considering an application for a beach fire-jumping event. These are examples of events which are 'outside the norm' if you will, events with the potential to have 'unintended consequences.' So I'm not sure why the April 25 mountain-bike race would not have fallen into a similar category - especially when one considers that it has the potential to inflame an already festering problem in the District.

Are there any traffic considerations for an event of this size? Has the RCMP been informed? Are emergency services and rescue personnel on hand? I suggest that, in instances where the safety and convenience of the wider population may be affected, or where there is a possibility that the District may be exposed to significant liability, then Council 'is where the buck stops' and Council should expect to be able to make the decision to go ahead - or not.

If current District policy does not clarify this point, then in my opinion, the policy is deficient in that regard and needs to be amended.

Sincerely,
Liz James

Ernie Crist <ernie_crist@dnv.org> wrote:

Mr Ridge:

Thank you for your response and for your explanation. I was not aware of the extent of the interpretation of this policy. However, if the mandate given to staff is as wide ranging as you have indicated then I have made a very serious mistake in supporting such a policy. For while I agree that neighborhood events in District Parks should be left to the discretion of District staff, in the case of a major, regional, national or even international Mountain Biking event with its potential impact on this community as appears to be the case here, this is quite a different matter. This is especially so since the Strategic Mountain Biking Plan is still being worked on. To be quite frank Mr. Ridge, in light of the fact that this issue is highly controversial and has as yet not been presented to Council in its contemplated strategic form, I consider staff's action unf! ortunate if not presumptuous.

Thank you,

Ernie Crist

> -----Original Message-----

> From: James Ridge

> Sent: April 21, 2004 9:20 AM

> To: Ernie Crist; 'FONVCA (E-mail)'; 'Cagebc@yahoo.com'; 'm.bragg@shaw.ca'

> Cc: Mayor and Council - DNV; Senior Management Committee; Susan Rogers; Irwin Torry; Richard Boulton

> Subject: RE: Mountain Bike Race on April 25 on Lower Fromme Road.

>

> Councillor Crist,

>

> Each year numerous events take place in District parks and public properties. As I indicated in our conversation on Monday these types of events do not come to Council for approval. In the District, as in the great majority of other Municipalities, these events are subject to a review and permitting process administered by staff. In fact there is a District Policy that was approved by Council on September 4th 2001 (Community Events in District Parks and Open Spaces <http://www.dnv.org/upload/documents/cpolicy/c1259002.pdf>). It sets out the staff permitting process and clearly delegates the authority to approve these events to staff. The table to the policy sets out the types of anticipated events, and includes mountain bike races. In fact, you were the person who requested the creation of that policy. At Council you seconded the motion to approve the policy, and voted in favour of it.

>

> I take strong exception to the implication in the press release that staff, specifically Ms Rogers, has circumvented or ignored a Council policy. In fact they followed the Council-approved policy to the letter. Ms Rogers is a pillar of integrity and professionalism, not just within the District Public Service but across the parks community.

>

> James Ridge

> Chief Administrative Officer

> District of North Vancouver

> 355 West Queens Rd.

> North Vancouver, BC V7N 4N5

> Phone: 604-990-2206

>! ; Fax: 604-984-9637

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Ernie Crist

> Sent: Tuesday, April 20, 2004 11:47 PM

> To: FONVCA (E-mail); 'Cagebc@yahoo.com'; 'm.bragg@shaw.ca'

> Cc: Mayor and Council - DNV; Senior Management Committee

> Subject: Mountain Bike Race on April 25 on Lower Fromme Road.

>

> PRESS RELEASE - Mountain Biking Event - Ernie Crist

>

> In a recent staff report for Council's "information" a member of the District's middle management team "informed" Council of a Mountain Biking event taking place on April 24, at Lower Fromme Mountain and that the event is being sponsored by the North Shore Mountain Bike Association (NSMBA) and Dizzy Cycles in North Vancouver.

>

> In the summary report it states that, the event will take place in the morning of Saturday, April 24. It further states that this was done in consultation with DNV staff, Grouse Mountain, the NSMBA and the GVRD. Fromme Mountain is in the District of North Vancouver.

>

> The information that staff had agreed to such an event was made by Susan Rogers, Section Manager - Parks Planning, a middle management position in the District. >

>

> In prior years such decisions were brought to the attention of District Council via an agenda item but it appears now that District Council has been eliminated from any decision making process. The issue is the more important since Mountain Biking has become an increasingly controversial issue in the community.

>

> All municipalities which I contacted informed me that applications for such events in their respective communities would be dealt with as part of their respective public council agenda. At one time this was also the case in the District of North Vancouver. Indeed, to the best of my knowledge there is no record that a change from the previous policy was ever brought before District Council for approval.

>> Ernie Crist,

