

Subject:**Date:** Sun, 18 Jul 2004 17:33:10 -0700**From:** "Ernie Crist" <ernie_crist@dnv.org>**To:** "FONVCA (E-mail)" <fonvca@fonvca.org>, <Cagebc@yahoo.com>

A MESSAGE FROM ERNIE CRIST

The North Shore Mountain Bike Events Society (NSMBES) is coming before Council on Monday to ask whether they can rent for one Dollar and for 6 weeks a vacant building earmarked for demolition to make room for the future Lynn Valley Library and Civic Square. The empty building is located where Ross Road, Lynn Valley Road and Mountain Highway intersect.

The NSMBES wants the building for the Mountain Bike Festival and Conference. The staff proposal is that Council agree not to charge a rental fee but that the NSMBES carry the cost for the maintenance of the building.

In the last few months other interested parties had also asked to rent the building but it appears that District Staff told them this was not possible. Construction of the Library "would commence soon" staff said or so I was told. I discern a bias here which I find difficult to accept. What may be more serious is that the request to rent for a fee was rejected without coming to Council FIRST. The North Shore Mountain Bikers Events Society on a previous occasion already received a District grant of \$4,500 for the upcoming Conference.

Technically speaking, the District will not lose any money since the building is empty. On the other hand the District IS losing money by forfeiting renting at market. The NSMBES is closely linked with it's (wealthy) parent organization. The question is this? Should the District subsidize Mountain Biking events.

An incident comes to mind which tells a great deal about District Council and why I have at times difficulties with standard issue politicians at the local level. On one occasion I had been made aware that the North Vancouver Youth Band was preparing for a trip to Europe. The Youth Band is the official Band of both the City and the District of North Vancouver. They have competed all over the world and returned with many trophies including Japan, Scotland and Austria when Arthur Smith was its conductor.

I learned that a single Band mom with two youths had a difficult time raising the \$1,500 each so that both could go on the trip. Despite collecting beer bottles and selling cookies from door to door for months, when the time for the trip arrived the mom and her two children was short 300 each for a total of \$600. I made a motion on District Council for an extraordinary grant of one thousand dollars to be given to the Band so it could accommodate the two youth in turn. But this was turned down by Council with Councillor Janice Harris leading the parade of objectors. The mom told me that she took her two children out of the Band since it was simply too hard not only for her two children but FOR HER AS WELL. This is a matter of record and as stated already, it was Councillor Janice Harris who led the parade against the request.

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