

Subject: [Fwd: FW: Lynn Valley project]

Date: Mon, 13 Sep 2004 14:18:14 -0700

From: Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>

To: Corrie Kost <kost@triumf.ca>

Subject: FW: Lynn Valley project

Date: Mon, 13 Sep 2004 10:29:05 -0700

From: John Hunter <hunterjohn@telus.net>

To: 'FONVCA' <fonvca@fonvca.org>

-----Original Message-----

From: John Hunter [<mailto:hunterjohn@telus.net>]

Sent: September 6, 2004 11:05 PM

To: 'Letters to the Editor NS News'

Subject: Lynn Valley project

Dear Editor

You quote me in the Sep. 3 News as saying "Axe this project..." I believe a review of the tape will show I said "Absent", not "Axe". I was not speaking against the project, just expressing concerns on cost and risk.

My points to council last Tuesday night were:

1) Tell the truth about the costs and economics. Stop claiming the annual costs are a few dollars per household, when they are over \$50 for 20-30 years. Admit the commercial section is an economic dud. Well, staff "fessed up" on costs.

2) Hold a referendum for this, the district's largest capital project. Please don't claim the 1996 referendum for a \$6 MM library is endorsement of a \$34 MM town center today. Thanks to Councillors Crist, Harris, Nixon, and McKeon Holmes, taxpayers lost that one. Crist, Harris, and McKeon Holmes broke their election promises on this issue; at least McKeon-Holmes tried to carve out the "commercial" project. Acting Mayor Nixon was the key swing vote and defeated the referendum.

This was truly a horrible process, with the only broad based public input session held months AFTER council made the "go" decision. To claim the 1996 referendum constitutes a blessing for this very different project at nearly 6 times the cost, and to deny district taxpayers a referendum under such circumstances, is unconscionable. C. Crist made the process clear as he claimed that a referendum would be defeated so they couldn't hold one. False statements were made that referenda had not taken place on Seymour projects. Democracy in action!

C. Harris said that risk concerns are "laughable". Can't she remember the Northlands golf course and the DNV "city hall" cost overruns of 60-85%, the Dollarton realignment "highway to nowhere" that sat idle two years, the illegal Canlan deal, the two scandals at Northlands, etc. DNV has a dubious record in "one-off" or unique deals, and here we have the largest in the DNV history. It lacks a business plan and a broad based risk assessment, yet with DNV's project history, she opines risk concerns are "laughable". "She who would be mayor"!

I have asked what the plan is when the bids come back at, say, \$40 MM. No answer. And it won't be pretty.


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