

Subject: The 55,00 s.ft.. containing 40,000 s.ft.. in Lynn Valley for a Library and associated use was a fact and so was the 15,000 s.ft.. community space.

Date: Fri, 3 Dec 2004 21:46:42 -0800

From: "Ernie Crist" <ernie_crist@dnv.org>

To: <Cagebc@yahoo.com>, <fonvca@fonvca.org>, <m.bragg@shaw.ca>

Dear Mrs. James:

1) I don't understand why people should have difficulties understanding where I'm coming from. (See email from Mrs Bragg). I have been one of the principled forces behind this project from day one. I have, in fact, been the strongest supporter on Council by far. I also supported the Lynn Valley Community Plan because it was to be a "Pedestrian Oriented Town Center". I changed my mind when it turned out to be nothing of the sort but merely a densification of the Lynn Valley Core without any amenities and without all the things that make up a "Pedestrian Oriented Town Center". When I asked that it be changed in line with the original ideas, the Lynn Valley Community Association ignored my pleas and so did Council. Not only did they not support making good on the promise but they lobbied members of Council and staff not to listen to Crist. This is number one.

2) I supported the Lynn Valley Library Town center project despite great reservations because the Library is needed, because I had promised to support it and because it contained 15,000 square feet of space on top of the 40,000 square feet Library to be used as potential community space. The Lynn Valley Community Association ignored my pleas and so did Council when the 15,000 square feet of potential community space as in floor 4 and 5 of the building was eliminated. I still supported the Library hoping that Council would use the adjacent (commercial building) for such a center. Once again I appealed for help and made a motion to that effect only to have Mr. Dan Ellis come before Council and request that my request not be listened to claiming that my claims were inaccurate (lies). This is number two.

3) The same was true for the Lynn Valley Community Association and even the Lynn Valley Seniors Association who brazenly stated that the Seniors in Lynn Valley did not need such a center. This was repeated in one of the emails from Mrs. Bragg who stated that the postage stamp Molly Nye House and /or the Mountain Highway facility WAS such a center and "yes" she said, "the people are playing chess".

Clearly these people either have absolutely no concept of what a community center is and/or they are totally disinterested in anything but more development even though, other than for the developers there are absolutely no benefits so far from the densification of the Lynn Valley Core. As for the complaints against Councillor Crist using impolite language - I did not start the war they are now complaining about - they did.

Instead of supporting the request for community space as part of the Library Mrs Bragg told you in one of her emails there never was a 15,000 square feet community space. And Mr. Ellis told Council that Councillor "Crist is not being factual". This was a direct and open challenge to me. This is number three.

The point to be made here is this? Who are those people speaking for. Surely not for the people of Lynn Valley. Why would anybody living in Lynn Valley speak against a community center and/or community space when it is in the interest of the Community. It has become clear to me that these "spokespersons" are not really fighting for the interests of the people in Lynn Valley but that they have a totally different agenda. Their agenda, in my opinion, is nothing more than to encourage maximum development and a higher density regardless of the cost to the liveability of Lynn Valley and cost to the taxpayers. Where I ask is the promised "Pedestrian Oriented Town Centre?"


The fact that some people are being taken in by the breast beating does not impress me. People have been told that the fight for the Library is a fight for Lynn Valley when in fact it is but a screen to hide a different agenda which is to maximise development while, at the same time, depriving the people of Lynn Valley of a community facility as was promised to them as part of the 55.000 square foot building.

Under those circumstances I will now review my position. I do not see how in good conscience I can support a \$ 41 million project for something worth only \$ 14 million plus \$ 3 million (12,000 square feet) worth of a cobbled open space appendix, useful during the nice days of the year only more or less.

This is the situation and it is factual. I do not have to prove anything, it is a fact. As for Councillor Crist being impolite, my advice is this - if people don't want war then they should not start one - don't call me a liar in so many words when I know better and expect not to be challenged.

Yours truly,

Ernie Crist

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