

Subject: RE: Mountain View Park

Date: Wed, 25 Feb 2004 14:24:20 -0800

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

To: "Sharon Bader" <bader@alumni.sfu.ca>

CC: "Mayor and Council - DNV" <Council@dnv.org>, "Senior Management Committee" <managecomm@dnv.org>

Hello Ms Bader:

I can assure you that the complaints about Mountain Biking impacting residential areas stem from more than one person. Some people are scared out of their wits for fear of retaliation from some Mountain Bikers. You will agree that this is not very good. I also understand there are signs in places telling people "Down with Crist". I sincerely hope that nobody will entertain any illusion that this will have any affect. I have always done what I think is right and I will continue to do so. That is a fact.

Of course I have seen the area for myself and on more than one occasion. That I have not attended a certain meeting with the Mountain Bikers is neither here nor there. The point is that I am familiar with the issue. And yes, the electoral Area C still exists it is just that the GVRD has renamed it.

Some years ago the area was offered to the District free of charge. I had a requested a study on the cost and the study showed that there would be no additional cost to the District. But of course my motion that we acquire it as an international outdoor sports and recreation area including Mountain Biking was turned down by District Council. Talk about lack of vision. Some things never change in the District. Worth mentioning is also the "Blair Rifle Range" which might be suitable.

Let me reiterate again that I think that Mountain Biking is a great sport and we should do everything to support it. But it should not be at the expense of residential neighborhoods.

The problems we had last year are but a small sample of things to come, mark my words. I was trying to avert this as something totally unnecessary. It is a sport which will grow by leaps and bounds and result in a tremendous backlash from residents. However, if people including the present Council encouraged by the Mountain Bikers insist on charging ahead regardless, they will surely get the confrontation that comes with it.

I noticed that you mentioned West Vancouver and the City of North Vancouver. I should tell you that neither has indicated any willingness to participate in the cost and I understand that West Vancouver has banned Mountain Biking altogether and/or is planning to do so. If that is true and I will check it out, than I think it is a very interesting piece of information.

As for the City, there is no room in the City in any case, so it is easy for them to support it in the District regardless of the consequences. You may not be aware, but the District is also supplying most of the parks on the North Shore and in addition subsidizes the City also via public recreation and field use. The City is building the high rises and the District is building the playing fields. This is bye the bye of course.

To sum up. I think that the responsible Mountain Biker which I believe you are, should support looking at alternative sites to accommodate this sport but not adjacent to residential areas.

Yours truly,

Ernie Crist.

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

From: Sharon Bader [<mailto:bader@alumni.sfu.ca>]

Sent: February 25, 2004 9:42 AM

To: Mayor Bell

Cc: Ernie Crist; Janice Harris; Maureen McKeon Holmes; Lisa Muri; Alan Nixon; Richard Walton; Susan Rogers; Richard Boase

Subject: Re: Mountain View Park

Councilor Crist,

Thank you for your reply.

I have been mountain biking on Mt. Fromme since 1990. It is my opinion, that since this time the condition of Mountain View Park has not drastically changed. It is still a wet, undefined area except in the driest part of summer. The biggest change has been the trees that have been felled in the area of the Pond close to the residents at Underwood Ave. The greatest threat to this area is the aging Hemlock trees that have re-inhabited this area since it was logged over 100years ago.

The best thing for this park is to have a defined path for the users to enter and exit with minimal impact in the area. The overall condition of the trails have improved due to the efforts of the mountain bikers and residents who have lived here since the trails first existed. I have offered, and the offer still stands, to hike with you or any councilor who wishes to see for him or herself the conditions of the trails.

As part of a democratic process that included over 100 citizens, it concerns me that the staff proposal is being ignored because of one vocal minority. I also find your concern of this issue somewhat biased since you did not even have the time to attend the meetings on this issue. The people who cared about this area were present and made their opinions known.

You have mentioned the GVRD Electoral Area C as a possible location to move the mountain bike trails too. This area no longer exists. The GVRD continues to support and includes mountain biking as part of their vision for the future of the LSCR.

As part of the Districts Fact finding initiative last year, I participated in a user survey. District Staff has these results. If you take the time to look at them you will find that 43% of the users of Mt. Fromme reside in the District of North Vancouver, the City of North Vancouver or West Vancouver. You will also find that 90% of the users that access Mt. Fromme are mountain bikers. While I conducted this survey, I talked to hikers and asked specifically if they had any conflicts. No specific incident has ever been mentioned. The fact that hikers do not hike on the mountain bike trails due to the technical nature of the terrain excludes such conflicts. On a number of occasions we had a person standing at the entrance of Mountain View Park and Mt. Hwy. During this time we would have 30 people access Mt. Fromme from Mt. Hwy compared to 5 accessing at Mountain View. The users that access Mountain View tended to be residents or mountain bikers with dogs.

Please, lets more forward.

Regards

Sharon Bader
NSMBA.
President.

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

From: Ernie Crist

To: bader@alumni.sfu.ca

Sent: Wednesday, February 25, 2004 12:49 AM

Subject: FW: Mountain View Park

Subject: RE: Mountain View Park

Dear Ms Bader:

The use of Mountain View Park by mountain bikers has seriously and adversely impacted this park. The same is true for other active recreational areas where mountain biking has been allowed. Mountain Biking and other standard recreational activities including hiking are simply not compatible.

It is like forcing a square peg into a round hole - like mixing fire and water.


Mountain biking may be a wonderful sport, however, it requires special designated areas away from residential areas. There are plenty such places on the North Shore including in the so called recreational hinterland.

The District Council made a serious and altogether costly mistake when they accommodated mountain biking in the present designated areas for it is a no win situation that can only lead to endless and unnecessary confrontations between bikers and the public. Not to mention that it is also extremely expensive.

I have and will continue to press for a strategic, a more practical and more cost effective solution. This means that I will continue to push to develop areas within GVRD and/or provincial government owned or administrated lands that are more suitable for this otherwise wonderful sport.

Yours truly,
Ernie Crist.

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