

Subject: [Fwd: Fw: Mountain View Park]

Date: Thu, 26 Feb 2004 13:03:16 -0800

From: Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>

To: Corrie Kost <kost@triumf.ca>

Subject: Fw: Mountain View Park

Date: Thu, 26 Feb 2004 08:15:38 -0800

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

To: Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>

Brian,

If you would like to post the complete correspondence between myself and Ernie feel free.

Very informative site! Nice work!

Sharon.

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

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

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

Sent: Wednesday, February 25, 2004 5:58 PM

Subject: RE: Mountain View Park

Ms Bader;

I have a motion before Council re this matter which will come up this coming Monday - it is geared to clarify this matter. Hopefully it will do this both for the satisfaction of the bikers and those looking for a long term solution which might include alternate sites.

In the meantime while I can fully understand your frustration, you may wish to keep in mind that in politics all things depend on politics which is very seldom black and white. To reiterate let's see what happens.

Ernie Crist

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

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

Sent: February 25, 2004 5:42 PM

To: Ernie Crist

Cc: Mayor and Council - DNV; Senior Management Committee

Subject: Re: Mountain View Park

Councilor Crist;

>From the June 26th Council Meeting;

MINUTES of the Special Meeting of the Council for The Corporation of the District of North Vancouver held in the Council Chamber the Municipal Hall, 355 West Queens Road, North Vancouver, B.C. on Monday, June 23, 2003, commencing at 7:09 p.m.

http://www.dnv.org/upload/documents/Council_Agendas_Minutes/cm030623.htm

It is my understanding that the larger strategic study;

3. the initiation of a Recreational Strategic Study be authorized, with an appointed Task Force to develop strategies and recommendations for sustainable recreation and mountain biking at Fromme Mountain and the

mountain areas of DNV, and to include parking and staging provisions, as well as environmental management guidelines. This process includes a multi-jurisdictional review of mountain biking on the North Shore with GVRD, BC Parks, District of West Vancouver, North Shore Mountain Bike Association, Grouse Mountain Resort, Seymour Mountain Resorts, and Cypress Mountain Resorts to identify sites with developed park infrastructure and site conditions that support downhill mountain biking, and may support private/public economic opportunities;

was separate from the Mountain View Park Issue;

5. a Mountain View Park neighbourhood meeting during July 2003 be initiated to discuss recreational and environmentally sustainable trail management options for the park, and to address neighbourhood issues relating to mountain biking, trail impacts and ecosystem degradation.

Which was addressed separately and a resolution suggested and supported by the majority of participants;

<http://www.dnv.org/upload/pdocsdocuments/8@m401!.htm>

The display will summarize the feedback received at the July 24th, 2003 Workshop and the October 29th, 2003 Open House and will present a plan for trail development, environmental & pond protection, forest replanting, signage and management initiatives for Mountain View Park.

When did these two issues become one?

Regards
Sharon Bader

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

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>
Sent: Wednesday, February 25, 2004 5:21 PM
Subject: RE: Mountain View Park

Ms Bader;

Thank you for your response. you may recall that the District Council charged staff with providing a strategic study on this issue. This has not yet been done and is the reason why the situation is in limbo. That study was supposed to be ready in the Fall of 2003 and has now been postponed to the Fall of 2004. A statement by one of our staff was made the other day in one of the local papers.

Thank you,

Ernie Crist.

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

From: Sharon Bader [<mailto:bader@alumni.sfu.ca>]
Sent: February 25, 2004 4:33 PM
To: Ernie Crist
Cc: Mayor and Council - DNV; Senior Management Committee
Subject: Re: Mountain View Park

Councilor Crist;

Many people who live adjacent to Mt. Fromme Recreational area are mountain bikers and live there because of this opportunity. Based on counter information anywhere from 300-500 users access Mt. Fromme via Mt. Hwy. Based on the number of vehicles that parked on McNair and Mt. Hwy prior to the restrictions, we estimate 240-360 users accessing this area (40 cars X 2-3 people per car X 3 car turnover) on a given busy weekend day. This number

decreases on weekdays and slightly during the fall and winter.

If 31% of these are RESIDENTS of North Vancouver and these users come to the mountains on a weekly basis then well over 100 Residents of North Vancouver are accessing these trails regularly. If only a fraction of the non-resident users support the businesses in North Vancouver, North Vancouver benefits.

This is a VERY popular recreational destination. World renown in fact.

I'm not sure where the paranoia these residents you refer to is coming from. Do you have examples of conflicts? I am aware of none. Perhaps if there is a particular situation they should notify the appropriate authorities. I am also unfamiliar with any slander directed at yourself, I thought this was about the trails. My interest is to preserve this area that Mountain bikers have used since the early 1980's. Moving the trails is not an option. They already exist, creating a new network would require even more resources.

Again based on survey data the average mountain biker is between the age of 30-40, riding a bike costing >\$3000.00. It is my experience that such people do not focus on terrorizing residents or hikers while enjoying their chosen recreational activity. They would much rather ride the trails, go have a burger and beer at the local pub, then shop at the local bike shop.

Electoral Area C was combined with Electoral Area A and is no longer an available option.

Mountain Biking has never been banned from the District of West Vancouver. The trails continue to exist and are ridden regularly. We are currently discussing with the District of West Vancouver to help them maintain their Mountain Bike Trails on Cypress Mountain. In fact, British Pacific Properties is opening themselves up to the opportunities Mountain Biking presents.

Many municipalities support mountain biking close to residential areas. Squamish, Whistler (not the Mountain Bike Park) Gibsons, Burnaby, Coquitlam to name the local ones.

We need to move forward to preserve this area for our future.

It has still not been explained to my why the Mountain View Park recommendations supported by a majority of attendees at the open houses is not being implemented.

Regards
Sharon Bader
NSMBA.

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

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>
Sent: Wednesday, February 25, 2004 2:24 PM
Subject: RE: Mountain View Park

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 by the way 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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