

Subject: GVRD Lecture Series -

Date: Thu, 22 Sep 2005 14:24:14 -0700

From: Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>

To: JMHunt@city.surrey.bc.ca, comm_ed@gvrd.bc.ca, lscr_ed@gvrd.bc.ca

CC: FONVCA <fonvca@fonvca.org>, cagebc@yahoo.com

Dear Mr. Hunt:

I am writing on behalf of the *Federation of North Vancouver Community Associations* (FONVCA) regarding your "Evening Lecture Series" at the Learning Lodge in the LSCR.

I note that this lecture series has a "by donation" admission price, with a specific amount of \$7.50 for adults and \$4 for students and seniors clearly indicated on the brochure. You might recall FONVCA writing about this issue in December '03 (attached) when an admission fee was charged for a lecture at the Learning Lodge. In that letter we objected to any cover charge for citizens attending a public meeting in a public building on a topic of public interest with a speaker on the public payroll. Your response (also attached) indicated that the GVRD would move toward a system of voluntary contributions. It appears that the spirit of this intent is being violated by attaching a dollar figure to the donation.

One would logically think the GVRD would want to do everything possible to encourage citizens to be informed about important regional issues, and could therefore absorb any relatively minor speakers' costs associated with the lectures, two of which are by GVRD staff. Advertising that admission is by donation and then qualifying it with a dollar amount would appear to discourage citizen participation. After all, it is the GVRD as a whole that benefits through citizen education and participation in these important discussions.

Sincerely,
Brian Platts

Federation of NV Community Associations

3187 Beverley Crescent

North Vancouver, B.C.

V7R 2W4

Ph. 604-985-5104

Fax: 604-988-5594

Subject:

RE: Fees For Public Meetings Held by the GVRD

From:

"Hunt, Marvin" <JMHunt@city.surrey.bc.ca>

Date:

Tue, 20 Jan 2004 22:32:31 -0800

To:

'Brian Platts' <bplatts@shaw.ca>, mayor.corrigan@city.burnaby.bc.ca, "Hunt, Marvin" <JMHunt@city.surrey.bc.ca>

CC:

comm_ed@gvrd.bc.ca, council@dnv.org, FONVCA <fonvca@fonvca.org>

Mr. Platt:

Thank you for your email addressed to us (FONVCA to GVRD, dated December 14, 2003) where you referenced the \$5.00 fee associated with a GVRD sponsored speaker's program held in the Lower Seymour Conservation Reserve. Through discussions with staff it became apparent that the program fee was administered in an attempt to partially offset overall speaker's program costs. The significant majority of speakers for this program have also come from the community (historians, naturalists, resource experts) so it was somewhat unusual that a GVRD staff member made a presentation as part of this program.

However, as a result of your communication, we have internally reviewed our approach and have decided to move towards a system of voluntary contributions from attendees rather than a fee. We certainly hope that you and your members will take advantage of next year's speakers program. Thanks again for providing your views.

J. Marvin Hunt

Board Chair, GVRD

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

From: Brian Platts [mailto:bplatts@shaw.ca]

Sent: December 14, 2003 7:44 PM

To: mayor.corrigan@city.burnaby.bc.ca; jmhunt@city.surrey.bc.ca

Cc: comm_ed@gvr.bc.ca; council@dnv.org; FONVCA

Subject: Fees For Public Meetings Held by the GVRD

Federation of North Vancouver

Community Associations

Dear Sirs:

At the November 20th meeting of the *Federation of North Vancouver Community Associations* (FONVCA) a discussion was held on the matter of the public being charged a fee to attend certain forums.

Of particular concern was a November 5th public forum advertised and sponsored by the GVRD with watershed manager, Mr. Bob Cavil, speaking at the "Learning Lodge", a public-owned facility located in the Lower Seymour Conservation Reserve. The advertisement specified a fee of \$5.00 for the privilege of citizens to attend. It is FONVCA's view that it is highly inappropriate to charge an attendance fee for GVRD public meetings, held in a public place, with a public employee speaking on a matter of public importance.

The *Federation of NV Community Associations* is an umbrella organization representing 18 residents' groups across the District of North Vancouver. Regular FONVCA meetings are held on the third Thursday of every month for the purpose of sharing information and discussing issues of common concern. We trust that the input provided in this communication will be given due consideration and that in future, such public meetings sponsored by the GVRD will be free of charge to members of the public.

Sincerely,
Brian Platts

Federation of NV Community Associations

3187 Beverley Crescent

North Vancouver, B.C.

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