

**Subject: FW:****Date:** Sun, 15 May 2005 21:41:46 -0700**From:** "Ernie Crist" <ernie\_crist@dnv.org>**To:** <fonvca@fonvca.org>, "Mayor and Council - DNV" <Council@dnv.org>, "Senior Management Committee" <managecomm@dnv.org>, "James Ridge" <James\_Ridge@dnv.org>**CC:** <annettemccall@shaw.ca>, <thelolloways@shaw.ca>, <city\_rocker@hotmail.com>, <thelabs@shaw.ca>, <dpoburko@shaw.ca>, <gfra@gorge.net>, <kjackson@cariboo.sd41.bc.ca>, <dwakelin@shaw.ca>

Hello .....

The idea of municipal grants is primarily to assist social organisations. This covers the whole spectrum of Youth, Arts, Seniors, Women, Homeless, Destitute etc. As provincial grants to these organisations have been cut, the demand has grown and is even greater than it was before the downloading policy was let loose on us. We, as Councillors, do not decide as to how much of the total budget money allocated is to be divided up among all the applicants. This is done by a special committee of volunteers.

Sport and recreation is covered through the North Shore Recreation Commission and covers the preventive health and sports arena. The idea here is to put the money where it will do the most good to the most people at minimum cost. The Rec Commission does not pay any taxes for the facilities and may keep all the money it collects from the fees. In addition, the Commission receives from the District alone a \$ 6 million annual subsidy. For instance, if someone is poor that person can get a voucher and use a facility free of charge.

The same is true for Culture which is covered through the Arts Commission, the Arts Council as well as the Recreation Commission. Here too grants are available for struggling groups.

The general idea of grants is to assist non profit organizations who, in turn, are providing help to needy persons and groups in the social and the cultural arena. The idea is not to provide financial assistance to groups who do not fall into the above category, albeit the line is sometimes somewhat grey.

Certainly, Mountain bikers are not an organisation which fall into this category. It is a specialised sport. To give grants to this organisation would be the same as to give grants to golfers, private tennis clubs, equestrian, ski clubs and other exclusive sports.

These forms of activities are not exactly within the parameters of the District grant policy. Mountain biking is a relatively expensive sport requiring special and expensive equipment. However, the District roads and the trails are there for everyone to use including Bikers, provided it does not result in the destruction of sensitive public property. This is why Biking should be limited to hard surfaces. That is exactly what they do in Europe and to growing degree in the US

Ernie

P.S. There is an interesting story pertaining to this issue.

The North Shore Youth Band is the official Band of the District and the City of North Vancouver. At one time the Band travelled far and wide, won many trophies and brought great honour to the community.

Once the Band travelled to Europe which cost \$ 1,500 per youth. You can well imagine the excitement among the children. They went and sold chocolate and other things to raise money. However, there was a single mom who had two children in the Band. She raised \$1,300 each but could not come up with the remaining \$200 dollars per child each.

I made a motion that we give an extra grant to the Band so the Band in turn could give it to those two poor children so they could go along on the trip. The District, which included Councillor's Harris and McKeon-Holmes voted against my motion ostensibly for lack of money. The two children could not go on that trip and their single mom took them out of the Band and you are asking me to give a grant to the Mountain Bikers who can afford to pay up to \$ 10,000 for a Bike?. I rest my case.  
Ernie Crist

---

Ernie,

As always, thank you for the thoughtful letter to .....  
I have to take issue with your comment that mountain biking is 'not exactly a poor man's sport' in context of a grant application. I don't see a connection? Does this mean that all grant applications are put through a similar measure? Do only 'poor and destitute' organisations receive grants?  
Keep up the struggle.

Here we go again - the issue, as you have asserted in your recent editorial is not biking, but biking on the steep, forested and sensitive slopes of Mount Fromme. Bikers are welcome to bike anywhere in the District wherever there are hard surfaced trails or roads. We have plenty of those and there are plenty more in the surrounding provincial and GVRD lands.

Unfortunately, the North Shore Mountain Bikers Association is ignoring this fact and insists on Jump Biking which is a specialised and extreme sport. And they insist on doing it on the wet slopes of Mount Fromme. This is bad not only to the environment, but results also in confrontation with both wildlife and hikers who frequent the area. Notwithstanding, the NSMBA have made up their mind that this is what they want and nothing less will do. This is what the issue is all about.

Jump Biking is an extreme part of Mountain Biking which requires a special environment. How would you like it if I were to claim that you are against cars or car drivers because you are not in favour of allowing car racing in the District? If the Bikers want a specialised facility so they can jump and stunt bike than they should apply themselves and either build one or get someone to build it for them in an appropriate area. To the extent that you are ignoring this crucial aspect you are missing the point.

Right from day one I have proposed that, in conjunction with the GVRD and the provincial government and even the private sector, we investigate the possibility of finding a place to accommodate this extreme sport on the vast tracts of the North Shore much like Whistler has done, but instead, I have been maligned. However, in the end, I suggest, my proposal is the only one which is practical. Pushing the NSMBA solution will only result in needless confrontations and a waste of money. It is like trying to force a square peg into a round hole.


As for denying a municipal grant for the Mountain Biking Festival? For once Council was prudent and responsible. Mountain Biking is not exactly a poor mans sport. Bikes can cost a fortune and they do. Also Mountain bikers still owe us quite a bit of money for having to remove the trail structures they built illegally. Not to mention the trees they cut, also illegally. If we have any spare money in the District I suggest we increase grants to our existing cultural

organisations. They not make a great contribution to our well being but,  
by and large, they really are poor.

Yours truly,

Ernie Crist

---

 <a href="#">winmail.dat</a>	<b>Name:</b> winmail.dat <b>Type:</b> application/ms-tnef <b>Encoding:</b> base64
---	---