

Subject: RE: \$400,000 Grouse Mountain Bear Rehabilitation Centre Proposal

Date: Fri, 29 Apr 2005 23:37:27 -0700

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

To: "James Ridge" <James_Ridge@dnv.org>, "Jim Cuthbert" <Jim_Cuthbert@dnv.org>, "Mayor and Council - DNV" <Council@dnv.org>, <fonvca@fonvca.org>, <murrlaw@shaw.ca>

CC: "Senior Management Committee" <managecomm@dnv.org>, <hunterjohn@telus.net>

A MESSAGE FROM ERNIE CRIST

All this is quite amazing is it not?

"The province will provide Grouse Mountain with funding for a black bear orphanage and re-naturalisation reserve, like "Critter Care". Grouse representatives have in the last 48 hours CONFIRMED these plans to us (the District) and TOLD US that THEY have been in discussion with Provincial Wildlife staff about this possibility for some time. Unfortunately they did not have discussions with us (the District). THEY confirmed with us (the District) THEIR plans involve a very large (200 acre) preserve well up Fromme/Grouse, PARTIALLY on District property". It would not be accessible to the public and would be managed by THEIR bear expert".

I hope everybody will understand that the way this whole issue is being handled is disgraceful and an affront to the District and its elected representatives for reasons which should be clear to everybody. As I read the comments, THEY have decided to do things on THEIR OWN WITHOUT the District being fully consulted and or being a full partner except to the extent that THEY have decided that THEIR preserve will be well up Fromme/Grouse including on District land. Translation they will build an outdoor zoo and a commercial venture including on District land for the benefit of Grouse Mountain Resorts.

You can dismiss the statement that it will NOT be accessible to the public as nothing more than a temporary ploy to pull the wool over the eyes of the public and prepare the road for a full outdoor commercial zoo for profit with the District giving up land for free.

If this is the Premier's way of treating local government, which it obviously is, then all I can say is shame on anybody who agrees with any of this without the District BEING A FULL PARTNER IN ANY NEGOTIATIONS AND /OR BEING FULLY APPRISED OF ANY PLANS AFFECTING THE DISTRICT EITHER DIRECT OR INDIRECTLY.

Here is what I suggest we do

There will be no further meeting between the District and any party concerning this issue until such time when Council will hold an extraordinary public session to discuss this issue with a provision for public input including North Shore Bear Advocates except that a District representative may be present in any such meeting as an observer in the meantime.


The Mayor will inform both Grouse Mountain Resorts and the provincial government that the District will not recognize any agreement affecting the District directly or indirectly without being fully consulted at all times in any and all negotiations between Grouse, the provincial government and/or any other party, provincial agencies or jurisdictions.

The District is, in principle, opposed to any rezoning of any forested land for commercial purposes.

The District is in principle opposed to any commercial venture on District land at the expense of the District natural environment and natural wildlife habitat.

In the event that the District agrees to give up land for any bear habitat, or a private zoo under whatever name and under conditions acceptable to the District, the District intends to be fully compensated.

Ernie Crist

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