

1008 - 00

(16)

From: Carolanne Reynolds [EditorWVM@WestVan.org]
Sent: November 18, 2008 8:34 AM
To: MayorandCouncil
Subject: Cmnty Amenity Contribution Allocation Policy

//
This item was withdrawn from the agenda and announced wd be on the Dec 8th agenda. Here are my comments based on the memo/report on the Nov 17 agenda.

=====

Dear Mayor and Council:

Comments for Nov 17 Ccl Mtg Agenda Item 5
re Cmnty Amenity Contribution Allocation Policy Process

This item is not about amount (some gave 75% of Uplift as a guide; discussed in policy of December 2007), rather process, "criteria for evaluating these allocations".

The staff report states that allocations are not intended for organizations or operating budgets, and as far as I know, this was never the public's request or understanding, rather for projects. As the report says, operating costs are not considered. As a matter of fact, unless the policy has changed, the Grants Cmte also did not give money for operating costs of an organization, just for special projects, so that the viability and continuity of a group did not depend on annual money from the District's budget and allowed for wider distribution.

1. PROCESS

As I've urged many times, and indeed Mayor Wood said it wd actually be part of the process, please include public input as to amenity projects for Council to consider. IOW, Council makes the decision after consultation with the residents.

2. AMENITY CONTRIBUTIONS RESERVE FUND

Good idea. It is my hope that, given the vicissitudes and volatile dynamics of budget debates, to ensure money available for some priorities or special projects that there be a formula for funding the environment, heritage, and arts and culture. For example each of these special categories cd be allocated 10% of the Cmnty Benefit total of a devt/upzoning. As explained in the memo, these wd be in reserve but cd be used when needed or at an optimal time as Council deems appropriate.

With suggestions from residents and Council, staff cd draw up and keep a list of measures/projects for the public and Council to choose from when considering options and timing.

Thank you again for bringing this forward.

--

Yours thoughtfully,

Carolanne Reynolds * Editor, West Van Matters; t 926 8649, f 484 5992; www.westvan.org