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**From:** ( ) (7)  
**Sent:** May 5, 2009 6:02 PM  
**To:** MayorandCouncil  
**Cc:** Grant McRadu; Stephen Mikicich  
**Subject:** Community Dialogue on Neighbourhood Character and Housing Working Group  
**Attachments:** Ltr. Mayor and Council. nEighbourhood character.May 5 2009.doc

Dear Mayor and Council;

Please find attached my letter of today in respect of the above matter, which letter I would ask be formally placed on record.

Sincerely,

( )



May 5, 2009

**Mayor and Council**  
District of West Vancouver  
British Columbia

By email to: [mayorandcouncil@westvancouver.ca](mailto:mayorandcouncil@westvancouver.ca)

Mayor and Council:

Re: Community Dialogue on Neighbourhood Character and Housing Working Group  
Proposed Development of Unitarian Church Property on Mathers Street

My husband and I reside at ( ) in the Esker Lane townhome development, which abuts the Unitarian Church property on which the Council is being asked to consider a proposed development.

As a prelude to making any decisions with regard to new developments in our neighbourhood, the residents have been invited to respond to the District as to their vision of the neighbourhood character, as part of a community dialogue. As neither I nor my husband will be able to attend the community dialogue event scheduled for today, we wish to make a written submission of our views in this regard.

We understand that the preservation of "neighbourhood character" is a key objective in the District's 2004 Official Community Plan (OCP) and that one of the Working Group's recommendations (#2.1 on page 14 in the report) is to "prepare character statements for individual neighbourhoods to help articulate their character-defining elements, and the community values around these, for inclusion in the OCP."

To assist the District to draft a "character statement" for our neighbourhood, my husband and I have identified the following characteristics which are of value for us. These characteristics will define the core of the "character statement" that we wish to see reflected for our neighbourhood for inclusion in the OCP, and that we wish to see govern any proposals or plans for future developments in the neighbourhood, including the proposals for the development of the Unitarian Church property on Mathers Street.

1. **Serenity:** The fact that churches and cemetery have been located in this neighborhood points to the fact that it always was and is intended to be a tranquil and serene setting.
2. **Seclusion:** As a result of its serenity, this is a neighbourhood that enjoys privacy and seclusion.

**Mayor and Council, West Vancouver**

May 5, 2009

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3. **Low traffic:** The fact that there is no public transit, proper sidewalks or lighting in the area also reflects the intended character of the neighbourhood. The cul-de-sac feature shows that the neighbourhood was not designed for high traffic. The neighborhood's opposition to Field Hockey's aborted plans also reflect the fact that the neighbourhood values the low traffic characteristic.

4. **Greenery:** This was originally a rural area (once intended, if our information is correct, to become an equestrian center). In its evolution, much of the green space has been preserved. The existence of the Park is seen as an asset by the neighbourhood. The recent vocal opposition to Field Hockey's plans showed how the neighbourhood places a premium on preserving its green spaces in this area.

5. **Exclusivity and Higher Property Values:** The neighborhood has properties ranging in values from \$800,000 to over \$2,500,000. Any trend to reduce these values would meet with neighborhood opposition. Previous plans for higher density projects (such as at what is now Esker Lane) were reduced substantially as a result of neighborhood opposition and to conform to the neighbourhood character.

We have shared these views with many of our neighbours, who have informed us that they agree with these views. We expect that they will echo these in the public event this evening.

Please place our views on record.

If we can assist you further in the process, please let us know.

Yours truly,

( )

Cc: Grant McRadu (by email)

Cc: Steve Mikicich (by email)

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