

March 25, 2015

Commission Agenda
Date2015 Apr 15
Correspondence.....(a)

Chair, Nick Volkow
Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission
City of Burnaby
4949 Canada Way
Burnaby, V5G 1M2

Dear Sir:

Re: Burnaby Senior's Issues

I have three issues to bring to your attention.

1. Fees for membership in Burnaby Senior's Centre

I apologize for not raising this issue sooner since I have objected to the change since its inception. At one time there was a single fee for participating at any senior's centre. For the last couple of years seniors have had the choice of joining one or more of the senior's centres with an increasing fee. If one attends many senior's trips it quickly becomes more affordable to join all the centres rather than pay an extra fee for, say an Edmonds trip when you belong only to Bonsor. I can't believe the City of Burnaby has realized a lot of money for this change in policy although it likely has cost senior's, especially those on fixed incomes. It seems mean spirited and a cash grab.

2. Bonsor 55+ Centre – this is not a friendly place to hang out. I am not referring to the staff but the design and layout of this building. I understand the building was built by the developer of the high rise apartment next to it. I wonder if

NOTE

Item 3 of the Director's Report No. 4 refers to this matter

Burnaby had any say in the design of the building and whether there was consultation with seniors. I have chosen to spend more time in the New Westminster Century House and Burnaby's Confederation Senior's Centre but eventually driving will be an issue. I have talked to many Burnaby seniors about the new building and there is agreement about the building not being a place people like to spend time.

3. Bonsor Recreation Centre – I understand there has been a delay in the renovations at the main Bonsor complex due to costs. This dates from last September and to my knowledge nothing has been approved to date thus further delaying any finished construction. Was there any intention to reinstall a canteen type place in the main building? At one time, if seniors were participating in classes they could get together for coffee after the class, upstairs in the seniors centre. They now have to cross the parking lot to the unfriendly new Bonsor 55+ and are not doing that. The only possibility now at the main Bonsor complex is a private facility, very expensive and there is no place to sit.

I am left with the impression that Burnaby is making decisions affecting seniors without consulting them and/or decisions seem to be based on money not on people's needs or what they can afford.

I would appreciate not receiving a political answer to my letter.

In addition I would like information as to how/where I can access future decisions affecting seniors and how I can involve myself in that process.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carole Cameron". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Carole Cameron
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Burnaby, B.C.
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