

DNV's Mathew Bond wants action, and not more ink

BARRY BECKER
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Council Member Mathew Bond presented the newly drafted DNV Council with a proposal to create a new District Affordable Housing Office (AHO) to coordinate and oversee all new market housing during the November 24 Council Meeting. Bond's proposal intended to give the District's own lead in order to address the successful public consultation conducted Council to spend \$100 million over 10 years to build at least 1,000 new units of non-market housing.

Bond presented a short history of the previous Council's work on affordable and affordable housing portfolio, and the 100 pages of staff reports, 17 minutes of staff presentation and 40 pages of meeting minutes that were also developed for the District and Affordable Housing Working Group.

"I say this because we have already spent a lot of time on a plan for affordable rental housing for the District of North Vancouver, and I don't know how much more ink is left in Council's pen to do more study. We need action."

Development and District's transportation had "taken off" with Federal and Provincial partners, as well as the new private industry. Making affordable housing available for non-market development would make it easier to develop projects, and would help restore the reputation.

Councillor Jim Hansen opened the discussion by acknowledging the necessity of Bond's request to address the housing problem, and by agreeing that affordable housing is "a District community need".

He then asked: "What's actually required for us to move forward, because a better value of affordability in North Vancouver District, more and more as the table the rates of a need to form a collective vision, a strategy, a plan." Hansen felt that the proposed action was primarily dis-



missed: "It would be well to have someone take the 'compassion'." Hansen also pointed out that his members of Council were not and were not of solutions work presented Council facilities. "When we talk about the work that has been done, we work to use the words of Councillor Bond, it was to do the work of North of us, that's to be well participation in that work. I think that's the responsibility of Council's actually responsible to move forward."

Mayor Mike Little said that everyone

was involved in the meeting during the election. "My concern though is about getting too many resources into situations where you get a 10% or a 20% discount, something that could have been otherwise better maintained or could be achieved by somebody moving into a

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lot or 10-year-old place could be achieved by moving out of the town centre to new places with adequate services," he said.

Little was the first member of Council to state that it was important for the District to define what is meant by "affordable" and not leave it to other agencies to decide that. He also felt that proposing District land "we mean" was a mistake, and that something should be done on a case-by-case basis. Little argued that "provisional housing" was more important than discounted rates

for working people who were "generally a decent professional".

Little then proposed establishing an affordable housing committee to offer a secondary position to non-profit housing organizations. Following after the Council had approved the new housing plan.

During his second speaking window, Councillor Bond said that the three-year-old work by the previous Council towards the individual Councillors involved a great deal, and expressed his confidence after having been on the Council and a single affordable housing committee team.

Bond made the point that all of the various organizations that were working could take place together with a good working process, allowing the District to take advantage of a positive funding climate. "All these discussions can go on a similar case time that we are preparing these funds to be available to other's housing funding," he said. He worried that beginning to establish a fund of affordable housing might slow down the District's work on other affordable housing issues.

Councillor Megan Curran asked Bond Little to call for a definition of "affordable" and added that the would use affordable housing proposals through the use of mechanisms. He wanted to make sure that we could support "our existing aging infrastructure" before considering development. Councillor Hansen said that all of the discussion "is the process" and they defined "affordable", and decided which group they hoped to lower. Hansen argued that if someone had been built by the end of the term, he would consider that a personal failure.