

Dear Mayor & Council,

Unfortunately many White Gold owners are experiencing owners' remorse. What started off with good intentions has turned into a bun toss.

Many residents have zero confidence in the process (or lack of) regarding the burying of the overhead services.

There is no point in spending further funds on quotes for a project that we the property owners have not even seen a sketch of let alone discussed prior to going to tender. This project lacks the neighbourhood (tax payers) input and now is dividing our community. (White Gold for sure)

Where is the planning? We have already dug up our streets to put in water, now dig them up again for power, no discussions around our new 30 km speed limits and how our street scape fits into the 30 km plan, lighting, bus shelter, of course the north/south route for pedestrians and bikes, numerous other questions. White Gold is a floodplain, has drainage been engineered for weather events before we put further obstacles in the waters path? People who live in White Gold should be having discussions with planners not writing to the council.

There are several lessons to be learned from where we are today, conversations need to be had (neighbourhood planning) with the stakeholders to better understand their ideas and concerns so that a process can be developed to move future improvements ahead in a collaborative manner.

Many of those opposing this are house rich and already up against huge annual property tax bills. We don't all have people and in fact many have small incomes. The original plan called for a maximum annual cost of \$1,200 a year which I personally thought was reasonable but many have been opposed right from the start.

When we look at the numbers presented to date, for example; 1.2 million to run Shaw cable and Telus phone/net through the new conduit apparently provided in the project. (The Rainbow subdivision spent just under 1 million dollars to completely install Hydro, Telus and Shaw) So we are spending more money to run a couple of wires through a supplied conduit than they spent to service their whole subdivision including hydro. To pull two cables, really, does that strike you as good value? I would love to see what a new subdivision pays for this, my educated guess is zero. Meanwhile not one cent budgeted to deal with any gas line issues that would inevitably come up, not one cent. Do you really expect us to have confidence in this process? (lack of)

You can vote to stop this now.

When I saw the mock up with a power box right in front of my friends house, on Fitz Creek (only the most desirable location in Whistler) the equipment not even on the property line, right in front of the house, (it's on the RMOW website) I was extremely disappointed. I heard this project called beautification, if that was your 8 million dollar home is that how you would see it? Unfortunately I see it in a vindictive light, as this homeowner is not in favour of the project and made that very clear. I would like to know how this placement was determined? (I am very serious about this point) I don't know the law but I do know that putting that on your website is very provocative. The stress you have caused this individual is hard to imagine. We have not had any discussion about where any equipment will be installed. So this is your 8 million dollar home and you will just shut up and pay, it is what it is. I don't think this undergrounding is being managed in a way that anyone can support.

You can stop this project now.

Clearly this project is yet another black eye on the perception of an out of touch out of control RMOW. (I will leave it at that)

Many residents are very disturbed, I read in your report that 40 power poles will remain, if you asked again I bet it would be 60. So with 40 poles remaining is that underground? As we were again told in the latest correspondence that I saw on your website and I believe the quote is "the time has passed" so no you can't keep your overhead lines to your house unless you opposed it from the start. Really is that how it was communicated at the start? To me that response smacks of arrogance and poor planning.

Many residents have no confidence, all have had no input, no evidence of planning beyond some underground wires. Did we discuss street lights or streetscape, no discussion period, just pay.

Guessing there are 150 homes, at an average value of \$5,000,000 that's 750 million in real estate, is this how the RMOW plans and manages this 3/4 billion dollar asset?

Most importantly the 50 plus 1 wins the vote, is a very low bar. A bare land strata property would require at least a 75% approval (I did some research) and this is not a strata subdivision. So 51 percent is not a reasonable percentage. If anything the bar would be a minimum of 75% likely even higher if you did the research.

Many wanted this to be a sparkling example, I think I was the first person to bring this forward many years ago(about 10), to be done with water and a streetscape plan (neighbourhood planning). I am so disappointed in the lack of planning process, it just makes me sad. I still have not even seen a sketch of the plans that are out to tender that my money will be required to pay. Really?

So sad.

In summary, while I was an initial supporter and contributed money to get a look, I did not expect to have this process done without proper planning, and without regard for costs. This project does not represent good value for the reluctant homeowner or even myself as an original supporter, only those with very deep pockets. Even then, without having any input into the location of the equipment in front of your home, I bet many less informed will too be having buyers remorse.

You can stop this now, what a mess.

Scott Carrell
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PS 50 plus one percent is not a reasonable approval threshold for a project of this scope on freehold land.