

Lucy Wyn-Griffiths

From: Ford, Karen [VCH] [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, October 27, 2020 1:31 PM
To: corporate
Cc: Arthur De Jong; Cathy Jewett; Duane Jackson; Jen Ford; John Grills; Ralph Forsyth
Subject: White Gold Underground Hydro Project - abandon proposal!

Karen Ford
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Mayor and Council
Resort Municipality of Whistler
4325 Blackcomb Way
Whistler, B.C. V8E 0X5

October 26, 2020

RE: White Gold Underground Hydro Project

To the Honourable Mayor and Council,

I am writing to request reconsideration of a recent vote to proceed with the undergrounding of utilities in White Gold.

Initially, the project was presented when Toni Medcalf, White Gold resident and RMOW staff member (major conflict of interest!!!) approached me at home with the Hydro beautification initiative. She presented the project as an opportunity to 'beautify' the neighbourhood at a minor expense that White Gold residents should be excited to pay. The scope of the project and the costs mentioned did not include the actual costs and the much larger estimated costs, that would become the homeowners responsibility to pay.

The only cost I was made aware of was during that visit was the cost related to bringing my property hydro services underground. **In fact, I was told that since my services are already underground the cost to me would be negligible.** Costs generated by construction and from a variety of other undisclosed sources were not mentioned to me when this project was brought to my attention and when I was asked to support it.

I was further told that since the RMOW had delayed the repaving off White Gold streets, that any related construction costs would be covered by the RMOW. But, according to the RMOW project lead, a major cost to homeowners who have already brought their services

underground will come when existing underground services have to be redone to align with the new RMOW project design and that existing underground line locations would not be considered.

Other costs not mentioned are disconnection and re-hookup fees, cost of contracted services that the homeowner will pay for public works, re-location of existing underground services, re-landscaping fees, potential street light and curb building. None of these costs were mentioned and no final project cost or estimate has been shared.

The project has not only been non-transparent in presenting all potential costs that homeowners will be responsible for, but it has also not revealed which property owners will have transformer boxes on their land. Will the homeowners who accommodate year round parking from Whistler visitors be excused from also having transformers on their lots?

As a permanent, year round resident, I am worried that 50% of the residents can decide the financial fate of the other 50% of the residents. If this project improved the safety of White Gold residents, I could understand that need and would support the proposal. But this is a 'beautification' project that is not necessary for the health and safety of White Gold residents. **In fact, for some of us, it is causing so much stress and worry that is affecting our health!** Why does my family have to consider relocation because another doesn't like the look of overhead wires? When did this become a strata?

Another concern from imposing burdening costs onto all residents will result in some will be forced to leave. If that happens, the diversity of our neighbourhood disappears. Permanent neighbours who watch over part-time homes will be gone and the 'elitist' neighbourhood that the 'yes' voters are hoping to gain will be vacant and at risk of inviting crime, thus changing the very essence of Whistler and the very reason we live here!

Please reconsider abandoning this project and leaving White Gold to remain the rich, diverse and beautiful neighbourhood it already is!

Sincerely,

Karen Ford