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Whistler BC V8E0E6

PO Box 1111
Whistler BC V0N1B0

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

22nd November, 2020

Dear Major and Council

Re; White Gold Beautification Project

My wife and I have permanently resided in White Gold for 30 years, having built our house on the corner of Toni Sailer & Fitzsimmons Rd Sth, in 1990. We are both employed locally; myself at Whistler/Blackcomb and my wife Julie, delivers mail for Canada Post. We rent our 2 bedroom suite to local employees and currently have 3 staff from the Four Seasons Resort living in it. **As long term White Gold residents, we are 100% in support of the White Gold Beautification Project.** We believe the enhancements from the White Gold Beautification Project will benefit the entire neighbourhood, both visually and also from a safety perspective.

On Nov 3rd, we were very pleased to see council vote 5-1 in favour of this project. We had a petition in favour of the project signed by 58% of the neighbourhood, well in excess of the required threshold. There was complete transparency regarding the cost estimates, time lines and scope of the project and a website was created to provide updates and answer questions raised by our neighbours. So it came as a surprise to see that council has decided to review the project again Dec 1st, due to a small number of White Gold owners that are not in support of the project.

There still seems to be some confusion circulating in the neighbourhood about private connection costs (upwards to \$22,000) and potential service upgrades. The scope of the project is clear; that it is confined to moving existing overhead utilities underground on public lands and does not include any service upgrades, such as street lighting or curbs. Work on private property remains the responsibility of the homeowner and the costs may vary, but there are options. If the cost to run underground from the property line to the residence is too complicated and expensive, there is an alternative to put a small pole up on the property line and continue to run overhead lines to the house, for a cost of between \$3000-\$4500. That is the estimated maximum amount that anyone will have to pay upfront. Any additional costs quoted beyond that, to run underground lines right to the house, are entirely optional.

One of our neighbours, [REDACTED], has offered to lead a group with a mission of simplifying the installation connections on private property. It is a not for profit initiative of reducing costs through leveraging our bulk purchasing power, consolidating project management and consulting work. A website has already been established to start collecting information from owners and engaging with relevant trades. Together, we will try to find cost effective solutions for all.

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Whilst we appreciate that these are challenging times and the timing may not be ideal for some, the private work does not need to be completed until 2022 or 2023 and the first local service charge on property taxes will not be until 2024. We feel that gives ample time for all owners to prepare for these costs accordingly.

On Dec 1st, we hope that once again, you will respect the democratic process that has been established under the Community Charter and continue to support this project, in line with the majority support of the White Gold neighbourhood.

Thankyou

Gerald & Julie Dempsey