

Lucy Wyn-Griffiths

From: Gordon Ahrens [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, November 23, 2020 3:11 PM
To: corporate; Council
Subject: Support to White Gold utilities undergrounding

Dear Mayor and Council,

My name is Gordon Ahrens, I am the owner and permanent resident of 7309 Fitzsimmons road. I have owned a property in Whistler since 1995 and have been in White Gold since 2017. I worked at the Whistler Mountain Ski Corporation in the early 90's and the merged entity of Whistler Blackcomb in the years following. I am no stranger to this community and for many years have been fortunate to enjoy all that Whistler has to offer.

I am a keen supporter of making improvements and was excited when I heard that my neighbors were joining together to bury the overhead utilities and clear the skies of the outdated infrastructure. I offered, with enthusiasm, to assist in any way possible. I saw a great opportunity to meet the neighbors and work together to make a change for the better.

Through this process I have meet numerous wonderful people with a variety of local stories to tell. The outpouring of support for this project was evident during the original petition process requesting the RMOW to facilitate a "formal petition" so homeowners could vote on proceeding with a full understanding of the scope and estimated costs. **The enthusiasm of the owners at this time was validated and encouraged by Mayor and Council on November 19th, 2019 when you voted unanimously to support the undergrounding project upon a successful petition.**

A rigorous and thorough petition process was undertaken and resulted in a successful petition that exceeded the required threshold to proceed. The community support for this project is strong and enduring. Out of 161 lots, 93 owners voted to support the project and a handful are opposed, based on a tabulation of letters to council. **Having some opposition is natural and healthy to encourage productive dialog, however, it is not a basis for which to uproot the legislative democratic process which we all entered into in good faith.** I am confident your review on December 1st, 2020 will reveal that owners strongly support this initiative and that a robust process was undertaken to ensure the petition was executed consistent with the legislation and was fully transparent.

Through the process of engaging with dozens of neighbours, reading the letters to council and articles in the local newspaper, not one person, whether they supported the petition or not, have said "I really like the overhead wires, utility poles and dangling transformers and would like to see them retained in perpetuity". If anything is certain, I believe there is general agreement it is preferred to have this infrastructure underground as is done with all new developments.

I am very happy the RMOW has been supportive of the process and for their work in executing the petition with such diligence. I am confident there are many other property owners, beyond White Gold, watching this project closely with aspirations of achieving the same level of support in their own neighborhoods.

Thank you for your work on this community lead project and your ongoing commitment to our community in general.

Regards,

Gordon Ahrens

7309 Fitzsimmons rd South, Whistler BC, V8E-0E5 [REDACTED]

