

Dear Coronation Park residents:

Having read the interpretation in Grant Gardner's report on the conversation that Rob Vagramov, Steve Milani, and I had with CP residents at Tyler Brown's home in late September, I am concerned that readers might not leave with an entirely accurate perception of where we stand regarding the future of Coronation Park. So before you folks head to the polls tomorrow, here is what you should know.

- 1) Given its downtown location (ideal for both residential and commercial) and its proximity to Translink and amenities, Coronation Park is probably the city's most appropriate neighbourhood to be redeveloped and densified, and we want to see the area move from vision to sale and construction without further delay. If we can shift the mayoralty and majority on Council, we're pretty sure that we can do a better job of helping this along than your neighbourhood has gotten, of late, from the current leadership at City Hall.

- 2) You and your neighbours have been fully involved from the start in decision-making about CP's future, which is the right way to do things. The Coronation Park community took time to go through a very difficult and contentious but proper process of building toward neighbourhood alignment (not complete, of course, but, at this point, very substantial) in favour of land assembly and redevelopment. While this outcome may not be perfect in all regards, and though it can still be improved, and while we do understand that it's not to everyone's satisfaction today (and that the dissenters have some valid gripes), we must and do support the collective outcome as legitimate.

- 3) The thrust of London Pacific's message seems to be that CP residents who are eager to move forward with the land sale are best advised to support the city's longstanding incumbents instead of those of us who want to bring fresh leadership to the city. But the brute fact is that the current regime has been at the City's helm throughout this long, drawn-out process over many years, and what we've observed looks more like foot-dragging rather than progress toward removing critical roadblocks, such as road access. If any of us three lived in Coronation Park at this point – with the escalating taxes and declining neighbourhood care and general loss of momentum around this project – we'd be pretty upset and pissed off too. It's got to change, and fast, but you're likely to continue getting exactly what you've been getting, so far, if you keep re-electing the same folks who got you to this stagnant spot. Rob, Steve, and I – each of us – believe that the City has let its Coronation Park residents down in this affair. If elected, we're committed to tackling the roadblocks and getting redevelopment back into forward drive as quickly as possible.

4. That said, we have to advise you that getting your properties sold and you moved out as quickly as possible so that you finally advance to whatever you're doing next will be a key goal of ours, but it cannot be our only goal, or else we'd be lousy city leaders. That is why, yes, we have to worry about things like ensuring that Coronation Park's *next* residents get enough additional park space to play with their kids (if not on the CP parcel, then acquired elsewhere), and that the CP plan includes, alongside all the top-priced condos, a decent amount of affordable rental housing so that Port Moody remains a diverse, welcoming, and livable place for folks from all walks and stages of life. These are simply the right things to do in city development, and the right things to do for persons who care about others in this world. Even if you're planning to sell and leave town, we suppose that you would wish the leaders of your next town to be worried about such things as well.

That said, paying better attention to these things doesn't have to delay the redevelopment process or kill the sale price of your property: what the development community needs most of all is better clarity about the city's expectations in these regards, so that they can factor them into planning and pro forma, and move forward. Fresh leadership at City Hall will get everyone off the fence and clear up the remaining clouds of uncertainty concerning what's really on the plate here.

In sum, Rob, Steve, and I view ourselves as your allies: let's get Coronation Park out of the idle gear and moving forward again. This starts with receiving your support at the ballot box tomorrow, so that we can make change happen at City Hall.

Sincerely,

Hunter Madsen

City Councillor, candidate for re-election