

More delays not necessary as consultation not needed

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City council has delayed putting in place a Manufactured Home Park Redevelopment Policy - after over two years of being asked to do so - because the city's mobile home park owners haven't been told?

City council's Nov. 9 multi-faceted options went through a whirlwind discussion and heated debate. When the wind stopped and it cooled down, council then decided to consult local park owners before approving any policy. The five mobile home park owners have had over two years to come forward with their concerns and questions. There's something wrong here.

This Manufactured Home Park Redevelopment Policy, when put into action, would only affect local park owners if they decide to redevelop the park. This policy does not force park owners into redevelopment.

Park owners have the most to profit. Whether they rezone it themselves or, as in the Falls Street case, sell it to a redeveloper to do so.

Where in B.C. has a park owner suffered great loss when rezoning has taken place? Nowhere. Why does Port Alberni city council believe it will happen here?

We've worked hard to get this policy in place for Port Alberni's mobile home owners, the ones at risk of loss and equity in their homes.

It should provide assistance for mobile home owners forced out of the park if park owners decide to redevelop, not just one year's pad rent. This is called Tenant Assistance Relocation.

So, five park owners must be asked for their input on proposals before council.

Why not consult those mobile home owners that have already lost their homes in Port Alberni. They have become, by no action of their own, experts on the matter. First-hand experience does that.

This city has no need to re-live it's adversely negative Falls Street Park fiasco at another mobile home park. No need to do more research, consulting, delaying. This City has need to put a Manufactured Home Park Redevelopment Tenant Assistance Policy in place as soon as possible.

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Port Alberni