

Public wanted opportunity to talk

Editor:

My husband and I attended the recent forum on the future of the Southlands. Although the time we spent there was interesting, it was disappointing not to actually have a forum.

The first hour was supposed to be an open house but they miscalculated the number of people that would turn up and all the displays were covered by bodies standing around the room.

The displays and tables were eventually removed to make more room and

Coun. Bruce McDonald announced we would just have to wait until 2 p.m. before we could hear the speakers. I think some even left as they had better ways to spend a sunny Saturday than waiting for an hour.

Finally the speakers started, but unless you were near the front you couldn't see them as they had not provided podiums or platforms for them to stand on.

I would like to publicly apologize to Ron Plowright, who spoke on food security for the Fraser Health Authority. A couple of

attendees rudely asked him to "get on with it" when he started talking about breastfeeding. I think he had been railroaded and had no idea what people were attending this forum for.

Sean Hodgins spoke eloquently about his proposed development plans for Tsawwassen. I am not sure we needed his 40-minute speech as he has, at great expense, kept us up to date on this project with brochures, etc. It would have been preferable if we could have asked questions about the extra couple of thousand

cars on 56th Street, etc.

The most interesting speaker was Wendy Holm, an agrologist whose parting words were that we shouldn't be planting houses on this valuable land.

We were supposed to break up into discussion groups, but that never happened, which was very disappointing, as what residents wanted, both those for and against, was an opportunity to give their own opinion and be able to enter into discussions with their neighbours.

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