

Kerianne Poulsen

From: john byrnes [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 30, 2025 9:08 AM
To: Council
Subject: SFAM Lease Renewal

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization. Use caution opening links or attachments.

John Byrnes
[REDACTED]

I am writing with regards to the Sechelt Farmers' and Artisans' Market (SFAM) lease renewal consideration that will be on the agenda for Feb 5th.

I have been a member of the market for (about) 15 years. I have served on the SFAM Board of Directors for (about) 12 years, all but a couple as chair. I have worked closely with DoS over the years, including participating in the lease renewal process a number of times.

The staff I have worked with have been very supportive and helpful to the market at all times and I would say that if ever there were issues that arose it was very easy to resolve, in particular during COVID, when the staff worked with us to help keep the market open while many other markets and events throughout the province were shut down - some never to recover.

I have also worked with mayor(s), council(s) and staff over the years with regards to finding a new location for the market. That the market would one day have to move from Cowrie St has been well known. It appears on our AGM agenda of 2017, in Board meeting minutes, and has been discussed casually amongst members - particularly after it appeared in the DoS meeting minutes of (2022). Regarding the Inlet Ave discussions, the SFAM Board worked with DoS on details of the proposal and it was discussed at a Board meeting at the time as reflected in the agenda of the day. It should be accepted as general knowledge - that is not to say that all members or the public are aware of this, but certainly the SFAM Board was. I hope the public realizes the efforts DoS has made.

On DoS trying to find a suitable replacement location for the market, I know that staff continues to spend considerable time and effort. In particular I would like to thank the Mayors and Council members as well as all DoS staff for their efforts in this regard up to 2022 when I stepped down from the SFAM Board. You all had a role in making the Sechelt Farmers' and Artisans' Market the great event it has become.

Regards,
John Byrnes