

Ladner for NPA? Not if Sam has his way

On Sunday, Peter Ladner will finally get the opportunity to reclaim his party's sanity by perhaps besting Sam Sullivan for the NPA's mayoral nomination.



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REBEL WITH A CLAUSE

He will, in fact, be fortunate, as will the NPA, if he wins.

Peter isn't just fighting the forces of snivel over in the Mayor's camp, he's up against the NPA party brass and election machine that have amply salted the nomination process in favour of the mayor. Not to mention that the sprinkling of Sam Sullivan's campaign with token Liberals isn't fooling anyone. Having ushered away the heart of the NPA to either their living rooms or Vision Vancouver, the hybrid Conservative wrecking crew running Sam's campaign will likely prevail. They will stop at nothing to win the nomination for the man who has earned, in spades, the moniker: 'The Worst Mayor of Vancouver'.

As well, in what I would consider unprecedented bias, the NPA board, after having originally chosen a faulty selection practice, something called a 'Green Light Committee Process', only made matters worse by finally committing to a democratic contest without an even playing field.

Any semblance that Peter Ladner, decidedly capable, has been given a fair shot at winning the NPA mayoral nomination evaporated long ago for me.

The Ladner camp, still reeling over the ill-tempered, public comments last week of NPA President Matthew Taylor (who is an otherwise exceptional individual), are frustrated further by party hierarchs who are clearly in over their heads. With the nomination meeting days away, it was only this week that the board, in its rapidly vanishing wisdom, saw fit to proffer any kind of nomination day rules for advertising, campaigning, or, most importantly, voting. Granted, there is only a contest for parks board, but leaving pertinent details to the absolute last minute is further contributing to the notion that the NPA is beyond disorganized. The excuse that they are a volunteer board is obscenely ridiculous. Tell that to Vision Vancouver. They are brimming with candidates, talent, money and a plan, including

rules.

Further, there seem to be missing Ladner signups from the NPA roster. A number of paid Ladner supporters are without credentials. Funnily enough, I'm told that the NPA are still "processing" memberships forms, which were in their hands by May

8. Remember, too, that neither Ladner nor Sullivan camps signed up more than a combined 3,500 members. Juxtaposition that with Vision, who received over 12,000 memberships one week after the NPA and had them all processed in five days.

The shenanigans don't stop there either. Last week, the Sullivan camp sent out a release claiming, falsely, of how the mayor had committed to two debates – at the time nothing was set. What absurdity! Hitting softballs on the *The Christy Clark Show* or stirring your coffee on CBC morning radio is hardly a proper debate.

Ladner isn't helped either by some of his own. A formerly credible activist for the downtrodden, Jamie Lee Hamilton, recently pushed for the wilting and divided COPE to run a mayoral candidate. Pardon? While supporting Ladner, she advocates for his presumed competition. Genius that.

Mind, add the release of two polls this week, showing that both Peter or Sam (and David Cadman) would likely lose badly to Gregor Robertson, and you see why I've stated for the last year that the NPA are deep in the drink of their own internequine warfare, that is almost always provoked by Sam's zombies and has never once been rebuffed by an NPA board that has as much courage and decision-making prowess as a jar of musty cashews.

Peter Ladner waited too long to wrestle Sam's campaign of smarmy spin over numberless accomplishments to the ground. He's easily been attracting as many supporters to events as the mayor – who relies heavily on the supporters of others in the largely mindless and lacklustre NPA caucus.

A Ladner team, given a year's lead-time could have fluently throttled Sam.

So, Peter Ladner will win on Sunday, if God isn't off golfing.

It'll take a miracle.

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