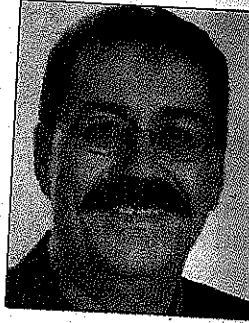


Brian Given loses battle with cancer

By JENNIFER SMITH
STAFF REPORTER



Brian Given

Kelowna city Coun. Brian Given lost his battle with cancer Monday, leaving a legacy of dedication to the community that he served. He was 57.

After statements by the city and Central Okanagan Regional District yesterday announcing his death, Mayor Sharon Shepherd spoke about the colleague she sat on council with for 10 years.

"Brian was a man who strongly supported the community," said Shepherd. "He was a loving father, loved his three children, had a wonderful wife, and was very passionate about his family—and that showed in his response to the community."

Shepherd said she will miss the experience Given brought to the council table and how thoroughly he understood the issues.

A celebration of Given's life will be held at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 22 at Trinity Baptist Church.

"He had a significant impact in the community but could have had many more years if he hadn't had cancer," she said.

CORD chairman, UBCM president and Kelowna Coun. Robert Hobson said he will remember Given for his evenhandedness, calling him someone whose counsel he always took seriously.

"It's always sad to lose people long before

their time," he said. "Brian was always a strong believer in fairness...and he was good at weighing things. When Brian spoke, his words had meaning... He spoke with clarity and passion and I know his words always had an impact."

City manager Ron Mattiussi said Given commanded tremendous respect among city staff.

"He had a great sense of humour. He didn't get bothered by things," said Mattiussi.

"He worked really hard for his constituents, but he also knew when to tell people, 'you know, you are being unreasonable.'"

"He always tried to solve problems, but it was never about blame. No matter what the issue was he would try to make his decision based on his principles."

Given worked many years for the Canadian National Institute for the Blind.

He leaves behind his wife, local school trustee Gail Given, and their three young children.