

Bryant, Shellie

From: Adithya Ramachandran [REDACTED]
Sent: September 18, 2019 5:49 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Form submission from: Write a Letter to Council

Submitted on Wednesday, September 18, 2019 - 17:49

Submitted by anonymous user: 74.206.135.124

Submitted values are:

Date Wednesday, September 18, 2019

To His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

First Name Adithya

Last Name Ramachandran

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City Dundurn

Province Saskatchewan

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Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable) Saskatoon Farmers' Market Cooperative Ltd.

Subject Municipal support for the Saskatoon Farmers' Market Cooperative in 2020 Meeting (if known) SPC on Planning & Development

Comments

I am the president of the Saskatoon Farmers' Market Co-op Ltd. (SFMCL). Our municipally subsidized lease for the site at 414 Ave B South expires on Dec 31, 2019, and we have been independently searching for a new home over the summer. Administration has indicated to us that none of our proposed ideas are a fit for the existing space and thus our lease will not be renewed, and in addition, that they cannot discuss the provision of an alternative space for us without fresh direction from Council. Administration has also indicated that they will continue to support "a farmers' market" at River Landing, but not necessarily support the SFMCL.

Over the summer of 2019, we have met with 8 Councilors to discuss how the SFMCL and the City of Saskatoon can continue to partner in the future, because we believe that the citizens of Saskatoon desire to see the SFMCL, by virtue of it being SK's largest authentic & progressive farmers' market, continue to operate with long-term municipal support. Due to its size, experience, progressive mandate and respect earned within the Saskatoon electorate, the SFMCL will continue to play a primary role in the City's plans regarding farmers' markets in general. There is no other entity or organization in the City that is capable of operating a large farmers' market.

I am requesting to address the Planning & Development Committee with three, inter-related requests:

1. That the City of Saskatoon consider the SFMCL as key to any plans involving farmers' markets.
2. That the City of Saskatoon provide financial and/or other support to the SFMCL, irrespective of physical location.
3. That the City of Saskatoon direct Administration to re-open negotiations with the SFMCL and be proactive in discussing how the above support can be best provided.

The rationale for this request is that as climate change, food transparency, food security and other environmental & economic issues exert growing influence on municipal agendas in the years to come, the public will increasingly support authentic & progressive farmers' market cooperatives such as the SFMCL, as opposed to public markets or any other type of market.

I am requesting two time slots to address the Committee: one for myself and one for Erika Quiring, Executive Director of the SFMCL.

Thank you,
Adithya Ramachandran,
President, SFMCL
Attachments

The results of this submission may be viewed at:

<https://www.saskatoon.ca/node/398/submission/337558>