

Lasby, Mary

Subject: Email - Communication - Jackie Bantle - City Greenhouses - CK 600-1

From: Web NoReply <web-noreply@Saskatoon.ca>

Sent: Sunday, February 5, 2023 6:14 PM

To: City Council <City.Council@Saskatoon.ca>

Subject: Email - Communication - Jackie Bantle - City Greenhouses - CK 600-1

--- Replies to this email will go to [REDACTED] ---

Submitted on Sunday, February 5, 2023 - 18:13

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

I have read and understand the above statements.: Yes

Date: Sunday, February 05, 2023

To: His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

Pronouns: She/her/hers

First Name: Jackie

Last Name: Bantle

Phonetic spelling of first and/or last name: Jackee Ban-tell

Phone Number : [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED] Pembroke Road

City: Neuanlage

Province: Saskatchewan

Postal Code: S0K [REDACTED]

What do you wish to do ?: Submit Comments

What meeting do you wish to speak/submit comments ? (if known):: SPC-PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY SERVICES - PUBLIC Wednesday, Feb. 8th, 2023 at 9:30am

What agenda item do you wish to comment on ?: 7.3.3 City Greenhouse Operating Model Update [PDCS2023-0206]

Comments:

It has come to my attention that the City of Saskatoon greenhouse is in disrepair and considerations are being given not to replace the greenhouse but to have private companies carry out the city of Saskatoon flower program during the summer as well as the indoor plant care for city facilities. I have serious concerns about the suggestion that the City of Saskatoon will not replace it's greenhouse.

A greenhouse is necessary for a Conservatory and the Conservatory must be replaced. For a city the size of Saskatoon not to have an indoor conservatory is embarrassing. Winnipeg just opened up their new conservatory (The Leaf), Edmonton has the Muttart Conservatory while Calgary has the Calgary Zoo Conservatory and Gardens. We cannot expect to have a conservatory in Saskatoon without a functioning greenhouse.

I have read the study that says that the quality of the plants for the outdoor flower program will not be compromised if sent to a private company - this remains to be seen. Also, if a private company is doing the flowers, they will be spending the least amount of money on the plants that they supply. The City of Saskatoon flower pots and outdoor gardens are known for their unique varieties and sometimes unusual varieties. Many local greenhouses COPY the flowers that the city has grown in a particular year when they plant the flowers in their greenhouse the following year. The City of Saskatoon greenhouse is setting the trend for new plants in the city and surrounding area. This will not happen if the program is given out to a local greenhouse grower.

The City of Saskatoon greenhouse could be so much more than it is. I work at the Agriculture Greenhouse at the U of S. We have so many requests from schools to host tours, workshops, etc for local schools. We can't keep up and as a research greenhouse, it's not really our mandate. This is something that the City of Saskatoon could look at for future ventures in a new greenhouse. For a nominal charge, school groups could come to the City of Saskatoon greenhouse for tours, learning about plants, etc. Perhaps, a company like 'Nutrien' would be willing to sponsor a program where students come to learn about growing food plants. Additionally, could partnerships with groups like Prairieland and the Western Development Museum be made so as to supply plants for events that they host? (ex. Gardenscape, Trade shows, Graduations, weddings, etc.)

It is very short sighted to suggest that the City of Saskatoon Greenhouse should not be replaced. A greenhouse will be necessary to ensure the uniqueness of plants in the conservatory, The quality of the plants in the planters, pots and flower beds in the City of Saskatoon have been second to none. I urge the mayor and counsellors to take another look at how they can make a new City of Saskatoon Greenhouse work for the city.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter. If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Will you be submitting a video to be vetted prior to council meeting?: No