

Lasby, Mary

Subject: FW: Email - Communication - Heather Jensen - City Greenhouse Operating Model - CK 600-1

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

Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 4:49 PM

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

Subject: Email - Communication – Heather Jensen - City Greenhouse Operating Model - CK 600-1

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

Submitted on Monday, February 6, 2023 - 16:49

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

I have read and understand the above statements.: Yes

Date: Monday, February 06, 2023

To: His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

Pronouns: She/her/hers

First Name: Heather

Last Name: Jensen

Phone Number : [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED] Avenue K South

City: Saskatoon

Province: Saskatchewan

Postal Code: S7M [REDACTED]

Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable): none

What do you wish to do ?: Submit Comments

What meeting do you wish to speak/submit comments ? (if known):: Wednesday February 8, 2023, SPC-PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY SERVICES - PUBLIC

What agenda item do you wish to comment on ?: 7.3.3

Comments:

I support the continuation of greenhouses operated by the City in Saskatoon. Local, appropriate living plants are very important for our lives in the City. The quality of plants in the city planters currently appears to be much higher than anything coming out of commercial greenhouses. Also, the knowledge of the people working in the greenhouse needs to be publicly supported. Having these plants grown in the city supports the life of the city overall. Living plants are associated with better mental and physical health, higher levels of productivity, and improved well-being of residents and visitors. Now is a great time to be re-building a greenhouse. Dramatic innovations in greenhouse technology, including use of new and more sustainable and less-carbon intensive methods of heating and cooling, dramatic improvements in greenhouse glazing materials (the transparent material), and improvements in greenhouse design for cold climates mean that greenhouse technology is becoming more, not less, feasible in Saskatoon. There is a real opportunity to re-build the greenhouses following a model of sustainability, and serving as a model for local production for small businesses and communities interested in local food and flowers. The expertise of people who work in the city greenhouses is worth supporting. There are opportunities to use this as a project that strengthens the city's climate resilience. Rebuilding the greenhouses and finding a way to reopen the conservatory is the proper route forward. These initiatives also are an important counter-balance to modern alienation from our natural world. I fear that sourcing plants commercially will mean our plants come in on trucks, and are less sustainable. I also fear that commercial contracts will be less able to reflect the uniqueness of Saskatoon and the needs of our weather. Commercial suppliers do not have the same ongoing engagement throughout the growing season, and using commercial suppliers would result in a de-skilling of the city plant workers. Beauty and natural environment are important and should be accessible to everyone in the city. Support for the greenhouses provides a benefit to everyone: businesses, citizens, visitors, etc. If special-project fundraising and citizen initiatives are required to support the greenhouse renovation or rebuild, and reopening the conservatory, then a citizen working group needs to be struck, and I would like to be part of such a group. I would be happy to speak to Council to emphasize the importance of this issue and the opportunities that this situation presents our city.

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