
From: City Council
Subject: FW: Email - Communication - James Lee - Saskatoon Nature Society - Letter of Support for Meewasin Valley Authority Funding - CK 1700-1
Attachments: Meewasin Support - Nov23-FINAL.pdf

From: Web NoReply <web-noreply@Saskatoon.ca>
Sent: Saturday, November 18, 2023 11:48 PM
To: City Council <City.Council@Saskatoon.ca>
Subject: Email - Communication - James Lee - Saskatoon Nature Society - Letter of Support for Meewasin Valley Authority Funding - CK 1700-1

--- Replies to this email will go to president@saskatoonnature.org ---

Submitted on Saturday, November 18, 2023 - 23:47

Submitted by user: [REDACTED]

Submitted values are:

I have read and understand the above statements.: Yes

I do not want my comments placed on a public agenda. They will be shared with members of Council through their online repository.: No

I only want my comments shared with the Mayor or my Ward Councillor.: No

Date: Saturday, November 18, 2023

To: His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

Pronouns: He/him/his

First Name: James

Last Name: Lee

Phone Number : 306 [REDACTED]

Email: president@saskatoonnature.org

Address: P.O. Box 27013

Neighbourhood: [Grosvenor Park](#)

City: Saskatoon

Province: Saskatchewan

Postal Code: S7H [REDACTED]

Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable): Saskatoon Nature Society

What do you wish to do ?: Submit Comments

What meeting do you wish to speak/submit comments ? (if known):: City meeting on Preliminary Business Plan and Budget Review, November 28th, 2023

What agenda item do you wish to comment on ?: Preliminary Business Plan and Budget Review

Comments:

Please see attached letter.

Attachments:

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



Saskatoon Nature Society
P.O. Box 27013 Grosvenor Park
Saskatoon, SK
S7H 5N9

19 November 2023

Letter of Support for Meewasin Valley Authority

re: City meeting on Preliminary Business Plan and Budget Review, November 28th, 2023

To the Mayor and City Councillors,

The Saskatoon Nature Society is writing to express our wholehearted support to maintain all funding for the Meewasin Valley Authority, including previously budgeted CPI increases and infrastructure funding for 2024 and 2025.

Our organization, composed of over 400 members, is dedicated to fostering an appreciation for nature and encouraging its deeper understanding through observation, education, and the sharing of experiences. Through direct funding and the volunteer efforts of our members, we actively support nature conservation projects and advocate for the preservation of plant and animal habitats. In light of this mission, we find that the work of the Meewasin Valley Authority strongly aligns with our values and objectives.

While we recognize that the City faces a time of severe budget constraints, it is important to note that the Meewasin Valley Authority's impact not only benefits Saskatoon residents but extends to non-residents like tourists, conference delegates, and other short-term visitors. Public opinion surveys consistently show that the Meewasin Trail and our river valley is one of our most attractive and appreciated attributes of the Saskatoon area, used by tens of thousands of residents and visitors every year, contributing to health and fitness, mental well-being, and the city's overall quality of life. As a longstanding organization, the Saskatoon Nature Society has also been delighted to work with and collaboratively support Meewasin in several initiatives benefitting all of these sectors over several decades.


Meewasin's mandate to conserve the rich biodiversity of our region, maintain the health of our ecosystems, and promote sustainable practices are crucial in ensuring a vibrant and resilient community in the Saskatoon region and position it as a key player in the City's green infrastructure and sustainability strategies. The organization's commitment to environmental education and outreach programs plays an essential role in raising awareness and fostering a sense of responsibility among the community members.

More broadly, through various initiatives, Meewasin has proven itself to be a key player in the conservation landscape, working to balance the needs of urban development with the imperative to safeguard our natural heritage. In particular, Meewasin is playing a pivotal role in Saskatoon's bid to become one of Canada's first National Urban Parks, in collaboration with Parks Canada and in consultation with many local partners and stakeholders. To this end, Meewasin's work directly supports UN Sustainable Development Goals 3 (Good Health and Well-Being), 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), SDG 13 (Climate Action), 14 (Life Below Water), and 15 (Life on Land), reflecting a comprehensive and holistic approach to environmental sustainability.

On behalf of the Saskatoon Nature Society, I wholeheartedly endorse and encourage continued support for Meewasin's vital conservation work. We believe that restoring Meewasin budget levels will enable the organization to increase its ability to attract and leverage additional funding from external sources, to attract and retain talented employees, and significantly demonstrates the City's recognition of the commendable work of its dedicated and passionate staff in conserving and protecting our natural environment.

Thank you for your commitment to the preservation and enhancement of our natural environment for the benefit of current and future generations.

Sincerely,


Jim Lee
President, Saskatoon Nature Society