
From: City Council
Subject: FW: Email - Communication - Candace Savage - Wild about Saskatoon - Community Support budget re Meewasin and Environment Grant - CK 1700-1
Attachments: Re Meewasin and Cash Grants.pdf

From: Web NoReply <web-noreply@Saskatoon.ca>
Sent: Thursday, November 16, 2023 5:00 PM
To: City Council <City.Council@Saskatoon.ca>
Subject: Email - Communication - Candace Savage - Wild about Saskatoon - Community Support budget re Meewasin and Environment Grant - CK 1700-1

--- Replies to this email will go to hello@wildaboutsaskatoon.org ---

Submitted on Thursday, November 16, 2023 - 16:59

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: Thursday, November 16, 2023

To: His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

First Name: Candace

Last Name: Savage

Phone Number : 306 [REDACTED]

Email: hello@wildaboutsaskatoon.org

Address: [REDACTED] Albert Avenue, Saskatoon, SK S7N [REDACTED]

Neighbourhood: [Nutana](#)

City: Saskatoon

Province: Saskatchewan

Postal Code: S7N [REDACTED]

Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable): Wild about Saskatoon

What do you wish to do ?: Submit Comments

What meeting do you wish to speak/submit comments ? (if known):: Budget Meeting Nov. 28-30

What agenda item do you wish to comment on ?: Community Support budget re Meewasin and Environment Grant

Comments:

Re: Proposed Cuts to Grants and Meewasin Valley Authority

At the August 15 meeting of SPC on Governance and Priorities, Council passed a motion to cancel planned increases to a number of “grants and community support” programs, including a small contribution to the City’s cash grants (\$15,800 in 2024 and \$8,800 in 2025) and a cost-of-living increase for the Meewasin Valley Authority (\$42,800 2024 and \$36,900 in 2025).

While we understand that cuts are necessary, we believe that targeting these expenditures represents false economy.

1. The City’s cash grants elevate and enhance the contributions of volunteers. As an organization that has occasionally benefited from the City’s Environment Grant, we know that the return on investment is many hundred-fold, unleashing contributions of time, energy and expertise that the City could not otherwise afford. In times of austerity, programs that help the City reach its goals at minimal cost should be protected, not cut.

Page 69 of the draft Operating and Capital Budget notes an increase of \$9200 to the Environmental Cash Grant “to account for program growth.” However, we understand that this represents a reallocation of funds rather than an increase in the pool of money that is actually available to support community initiatives. To begin “to account for program growth,” we ask you to reinstate the small increases noted above and allocate them to the Environment Grant, to bolster the City’s progress toward its sustainability goals.

2. The Meewasin Valley Authority is a unique made-in-Saskatchewan organization with an important mission and a high approval rating among residents. The proposed cuts would deprive Meewasin of an expected increase tied to the Consumer Price Index, thereby hampering its operations and limiting its ability to attract matching funds. In times of austerity, access to nature is more important than ever as a source of human well-being and health. Maintaining support for Meewasin provides essential, sustaining services for all residents.

These cuts are reflected on p. 247 of the draft Operating and Capital Budget. We respectfully request that you restore the CPI increase to Meewasin and direct the planned increase in community supports to the Environment Grant.

Joanne Blythe
Andrea Carroll
Chad Hammond
Candace Savage

For Wild about Saskatoon
www.wildaboutsaskatoon.org
hello@wildaboutsaskatoon.org

Attachments:

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



November 16, 2023

Re: Proposed Cuts to Grants and Community Support Activities

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