

From: [Web NoReply](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Email - Communication - Gordon Holtslander - Saskatoon Cycles - Support the Meewasin Valley Authority - CK 1700-1
Date: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 1:13:38 PM

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

Submitted on Tuesday, November 21, 2023 - 13:13

Submitted by user: Anonymous

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: Tuesday, November 21, 2023

To: His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

First Name: Gordon

Last Name: Holtslander

Email: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED] University Dr

Neighbourhood: [Nutana](#)

City: Saskatoon

Province: Saskatchewan

Postal Code: S7N [REDACTED]

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

What do you wish to do ?: Submit Comments

What meeting do you wish to speak/submit comments ? (if known):: Preliminary Business Plan and Budget Review, commencing November 28th, 2023 at 930am

What agenda item do you wish to comment on ?: Meewasin budget

Comments:

I am writing on behalf of Saskatoon Cycles. We are a local group advocating for a Saskatoon where cycling is a viable, year-round mode of transportation that is safe, convenient and comfortable for all ages, confidence levels, and abilities. We strongly support the Meewasin Valley Authority, an institution that has played a crucial role in the development and enhancement of our region's natural and outdoor recreation assets.

The MVA's commitment to preserving the South Saskatchewan River valley has established a world-class urban green space that has long been a definitive feature of Saskatoon. Its beautiful, well-maintained riverbanks, trails, and green spaces are fully accessible to the public, providing unparalleled natural experiences for locals and visitors alike. It is a vital active transportation corridor, an exceptional natural backdrop for community events, and an integral piece of habitat for wild prairie species. From our self-interested perspective, it is the gem of cycling infrastructure in Saskatoon.

The Meewasin Valley Authority has illustrated how a healthy natural environment and higher quality of life go hand in hand with a healthy business community. By establishing protected habitats, creating enhancement infrastructure, and promoting local history, heritage, and cultural activities, the Meewasin creates a vibrant and dynamic atmosphere that attracts tourists and bolsters the local economy. Specifically, we would like to highlight their commitment and volunteerism to Saskatchewan's annual marathon, engaging with Saskatoon Cycles and the community to enhance the area for accessibility.

Finally, the MVA acts as a key fundraising institution for gathering the community to support important projects, like necessary trail infrastructure upgrades, expanded networks, and increased and diversified flora.

As costs for all operations increase, any freeze to funding is a significant detriment and will have negative effects for their organization and many partners. Further, the funds the city continues to allocate to support trail infrastructure is invaluable for this meaningful active transportation corridor which sees over 2 million visits per year.

Meewasin's efforts to protect and enhance this unique urban wilderness are instrumental in supporting community connection and ensuring learning and recreation opportunities for generations to come. We believe that their mission aligns seamlessly with the interests and vision of the City of Saskatoon, and we are committed to working collaboratively to ensure the ongoing success of this cherished organization.

In conclusion, while we understand the challenges our city faces with budgetary decisions, we are asking that CPI for 2024 & 2025 be reinstated for Meewasin, and we ask that all other funding, including the trail infrastructure funds provided to Meewasin annually are not impacted.

Sincerely,

Gord Holtslander

Chair, Saskatoon Cycles

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

The results of this submission may be viewed at:

https://www.saskatoon.ca/admin/structure/webform/manage/webform_398/submission/63715