

Janzen, Heather

From: City Council
Subject: FW: Email - Communication - Peter Garden - Harry Bailey Aquatic Centre Rehabilitation and Upgrades - Capital Budget Adjustment - CK 613-2 x 1702-1

From: Web NoReply <web-noreply@Saskatoon.ca>
Sent: Monday, June 24, 2024 4:37 PM
To: City Council <City.Council@Saskatoon.ca>
Subject: Email - Communication - Peter Garden - Harry Bailey Aquatic Centre Rehabilitation and Upgrades - Capital Budget Adjustment - CK 613-2 x 1702-1

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

Submitted on Monday, June 24, 2024 - 16:36

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: Monday, June 24, 2024

To: His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

Pronouns: He/him/his

First Name: Peter

Last Name: Garden

Phonetic spelling of first and/or last name: [REDACTED]

Phone Number : [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

I live outside of Saskatoon: No

Saskatoon Address and Ward:

Address: [REDACTED] Avenue E North

Ward: Ward 2

What do you wish to do ?: Submit Comments

What meeting do you wish to speak/submit comments ? (if known):: Special Public Hearing Meeting of City Council

What agenda item do you wish to comment on ?: Harry Bailey upgrades - budget adjustment

Comments:

My name is Peter Garden and I am a resident of the Caswell Hill neighbourhood in my late 40s with high-school-aged children. I am a regular user of the city's leisure facilities. I am a bit late to the fitness party, only really having taken up regular exercise during the COVID pandemic. Access to leisure facilities has been a big part of this return to a healthier lifestyle.

One of the lessons that I have learned that keeping active is easier when there are fewer barriers. Barriers for me include time and money. The less I have to think about starting my activity the better. I am fortunate to have the means to purchase a leisure pass and have a vehicle which allows me to get to the Shaw Centre and Field House with relative ease. I recognize that not everyone is as fortunate.

In recent years, we have become familiar with the concept of a food desert. This is an area of the city (usually lower income neighbourhoods) where there is a dearth of grocery stores. This forces people living in these areas without access to transportation, to pay higher prices for and get poorer quality food. I would argue that the same concept applies to fitness and recreation. With open leisure facilities in the suburbs in and not in the city's core, it creates uneven access to these facilities, increasing health inequalities between the city's 'haves' and 'have nots.'

This is the reason why approving the funding that will enable the reopening Harry Bailey Aquatic Centre as soon as possible is so important. Being able to quickly and easily walk, ride or bus to a leisure facility will mean that people in the city's lower-income neighbourhoods will use the facilities more and enjoy the benefits for both themselves and their children. Healthier people mean healthier communities and lower costs down the line for other public systems like health care. To me, these are some of the smartest investments that we can make that will create benefits for us all.

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