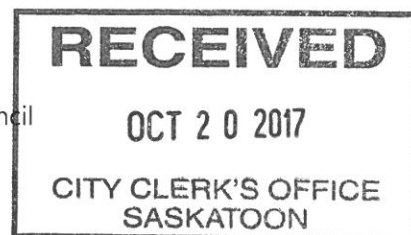


From: City Council
Sent: Friday, October 20, 2017 2:09 AM
To: City Council
Subject: Form submission from: Write a Letter to Council



Submitted on Friday, October 20, 2017 - 02:08
 Submitted by anonymous user: 207.195.120.231
 Submitted values are:

Date: Friday, October 20, 2017
 To: His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council
 First Name: Peggy
 Last Name: Sarjeant
 Address: 674, University Drive
 City: Saskatoon
 Province: Saskatchewan
 Postal Code: S7N 0J2
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Comments:

Civic Conservatory: Options for renewal
 Mayor and Councillors,

I am delighted to learn that the City is considering restoring and possibly expanding the Civic Conservatory. I was worried that it might have got forgotten in the focus on the Children's Discovery Museum!

The Conservatory is a tiny gem - one of the few places in the city that can provide respite during the long winter months – where people can sit and enjoy the greenery, appreciate the variety of plants and be surrounded by the scent of flowers. I think we underestimate the therapeutic value of such a space.

Unfortunately, the current conservatory is so tiny that visitors are often almost rubbing shoulders with each other. I would fully support an expansion to double its size. This would enable more seating to be included, something that would be much appreciated, especially by the elderly.

Some aspects of the report, however, I find troubling. There does not seem to be a coherent view of what the conservatory should actually be. Is it a place which showcases exotic and non-winter-hardy plants or is it a place that demonstrates how to make compost? It cannot do both. There simply would not be enough room. Also, we need to be careful that introducing other functions does not negatively affect the prime function of any conservatory – that of providing a place for growing and showing plants, which cannot be grown outside in Saskatchewan.

A large portion of the report is devoted to “programming”, much of which is aimed at children. I fail to see the need to “animate” this space. Cannot the plants speak for themselves? Cannot visitors, even small people, just walk around and admire the flowers? If activities need to be introduced, then we should be looking at activities that have the least impact on the ambience of the space. We should also recognize the value of the conservatory as a place of relaxation, a sanctuary where people of all ages – children included – can unwind after a visit to the Children's Museum or the playground. I even envision a quiet spot in the conservatory where small yoga or meditation classes take place.

In conclusion, I fully support the expansion of the current conservatory and ask you to carefully consider its prime function. I believe this is the only public winter green space in the city. Please do not dilute its value as a place of respite and relaxation.

Yours truly,
 Peggy Sarjeant.

The results of this submission may be viewed at: