

Christine Boehmer

Churchill Dr

Saskatoon, SK,

September 23, 2018

To: City Clerk, His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

Re: City Committee asking to explore increased use of Saskatoon Farmer's Market Building

I am a year round supporter of the Saskatoon Farmer's Market (SFM) and have been supporting the market for almost 20 years back to when it was an open air market in the summer downtown by City Hall. The news release of how the City of Saskatoon is looking to find a tenant who will be able to run a market in the current SFM building, is disappointing. I believe that moving towards a tenant like this will take the heart out of the SFM.

Does the City of Saskatoon really believe that Saskatoon is able to support such a venture of being open 6 days a week? I prefer to come to the SFM on Saturdays, there are more vendors set up on this day. It's an event, something to do in the city on a Saturday that has become part of my regular routine. I have also been to the market on Wednesday nights or Sundays, the atmosphere is a different, very quiet.

I have been to the Granville Island market in Vancouver. Something that I was disappointed in Granville Island was that some of it's vendors were just retailers, reselling produce that was shipped from California that could've been bought at the local grocery store. Granville Island is very popular, and I was looking forward to visiting it, but I guess I was looking for something more like the farmer's market that I was used to in Saskatoon. The vendors that are set up at the SFM are local farmers/bakers/artisans that have a hand in what they are selling at the market. You can interact with the person who grew the produce or caught the fish you will eat tonight. It is important to have a connection to the food and the people grew/made it. If the market is move to 6 days a week, what will happen to the local and personal aspect? A lot of the vendors at the current SFM have made the market their livelihood, moving to a 6 day per week market would destroy their business.

Please consider that it's not just what is being sold at the market that is the attraction, but how it's sold (small scale, small business), who is selling it (the person who made it/grew it/etc and the personal connection which comes with that), and how that is valued by the public.

Sincerely,

Christine Boehmer