

Bryant, Shellie (Clerks)

From: City Council
Sent: September 20, 2018 9:18 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Form submission from: Write a Letter to Council
Attachments: farmers_market.docx

Submitted on Thursday, September 20, 2018 - 21:18
Submitted by anonymous user: 207.195.58.233
Submitted values are:

Date: Thursday, September 20, 2018
To: His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council
First Name: Keith
Last Name: Bell
Email: [REDACTED]
Address: [REDACTED] Albert Avenue
City: Saskatoon
Province: Saskatchewan
Postal Code: [REDACTED]
Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable):
Subject: Saskatoon Farmers' Market Renewal of Lease, agenda item 9.8.1
Meeting (if known): City Council, September 24, 2018
Comments:
Re: Request for Proposals for Farmers' Market Building

I am writing to ask you to take two actions:

- (1) immediately renew the Saskatoon Farmers' Market's lease, and
- (2) review the City's aspirations for the market building, to remove the requirement for six-day-a-week activity.

The Saskatoon Farmers' Market is a huge success. Week after week, it creates community, builds health, reduces waste, encourages entrepreneurship and sustains small businesses. In all these ways, it supports the City's strategic goals of Quality of Life, Environmental Leadership and Economic Diversity.

By providing a home for Market, the City has earned a right to claim a share of the credit for these achievements.

But now, instead of supporting the Farmers' Market, the City seems poised to sabotage it. Seen from a narrowly commercial point of view, the Market has been found lacking because it does not – and logically cannot -- “animate” its premises six days a week. In this context, “animate” is another word for “monetize.” Are we really prepared to sacrifice the unique value of our Farmers' Market to create ordinary retail space?

The Saskatoon Farmers' Market is special because it is exactly what it claims to be: a place where local producers and consumers meet and conduct business, face to face, twelve months of the year. Its only near-equivalent on the prairies (the only other Farmers' Market with a dedicated, year-round home) is the one-day-a-week Old Strathcona Farmers' Market in Edmonton—to my mind one of that city's major attractions. Here in Saskatoon, we have created something similarly remarkable and rare, yet we seem to be blind to our own achievement.

Attachments:

farmers_market.docx: https://www.saskatoon.ca/sites/default/files/webform/farmers_market.docx

The results of this submission may be viewed at:

<https://www.saskatoon.ca/node/398/submission/257708>