



City of
Peterborough

To: Members of the Arenas Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

From: Rob Anderson, Recreation Division Coordinator

Meeting Date: January 16, 2018

Subject: Report APRAC18-001
Nevin Park Community Garden Update

Purpose

A report to provide an update on the Nevin Park Community garden following the initial two-season trial period.

Recommendations

That the Arenas Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee approve the recommendations outlined in Report APRAC18-001 dated January 16, 2018, of the Recreation Division Coordinator, as follows:

- a) That the community garden which was established in Nevin Park in 2016 on a two-year trial basis be continued; and
- b) That the Nevin Park Community Garden be expanded to a maximum of twelve plots, and incorporate a pollinator garden.

Budget and Financial Implications

There is no budget or financial implication resulting from the approval of the recommendation of Report APRAC18-001. Expenses to the City for preparation of the land to accommodate the three additional plots and a pollinator garden can be accommodated within the approved 2018 Community Garden operating budget.

Background

On May 17, 2016, the Arenas Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee (APRAC) received staff report APRAC16-016 – Nevin Park Community Garden. Within that report, Staff recommended that the request to establish a community garden in Nevin Park be denied, and that alternate sites be investigated within the area. Staff recommended that approach due to the degree of mixed input received from the neighbourhood residents. The Staff recommendation was not supported by APRAC, with the following motion being made and carried:

That Nevin Park be approved as a Community Garden site for a two-year trial period; and

That staff report back to the Committee by the end of 2017, following an assessment of the success of the trial period.

During the 2016 and 2017 trial period, Staff did not receive any negative feedback about the garden operation. On November 14, 2017, City Staff, in partnership with the Nourish Project Peterborough held a neighbourhood meeting at the Artisan Centre at 993 Talwood Drive, to give opportunity for the neighbourhood residents to provide input about the two-year trial period. Notices were hand delivered to all homes within 120 metres of the Park. The notice included the contact information for a representative from the City, and the Nourish Project, providing an alternative mechanism to give feedback, for those who could not attend the meeting. Ten residents attended on November 14th.

Attached as Appendix “A” are the November 14th meeting notes, and as Appendix “B” are the comments received from residents not able to attend the neighbourhood meeting. While those who attended the meeting were required to sign in, their names and the names of those who provided comments have been excluded from this report, as they have not provided consent to publicize their names.

Staff are recommending that the garden continue to operate on an ongoing basis, and that the number of plots be capped at 12. There were 9 plots in use during the two-year trial. While demand now exceeds current capacity, Staff believes 12 plots would be the maximum number appropriate for this space. The number of pollinator gardens on City land has been on the rise since the 2016 Participatory Budgeting process. Staff is

supportive of incorporating a pollinator garden at the Nevin Park garden site as proposed by Nourish Peterborough and the Nevin Park gardeners.

Submitted by,

Rob Anderson
Recreation Division Coordinator

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Attachments:

Appendix A – November 14, 2017 Nevin Park Garden Meeting Notes

Appendix B – Comments from Neighbourhood Residents Unable to Attend the Meeting

Appendix A



City of
Peterborough

Nevin Park – Community Garden Meeting

Tuesday, November 14, 2017

6:30 - 7:30pm

Artisan Centre Peterborough, 993 Talwood Dr. (2nd floor) Peterborough

Meeting Minutes

Introductions:

Jill Bishop (Meeting Facilitator) – Nourish Peterborough
Phil Jacobs – Public Works – Parks & Forestry Supervisor
Stephanie Fraser – Recreation Division - Recreationist
Natalie Ross – Gardener/Nevin Garden Coordinator
Neighbour
Neighbour
Neighbour/Gardener
Neighbour/Gardener
Neighbour/Gardener
Neighbour/Gardener
Neighbour/Gardener
Neighbour/Gardener
Neighbour/Gardener

Trent Student #1 (observing meeting)

Trent Student #2 (observing meeting)

Agenda/Welcome: Jill Bishop

Jill thanked everyone for attending the meeting. She explained that the Nevin Community Garden was approved 2 years ago on a trial basis. It has now been 2 years and this meeting has been organized as a follow up to see if there is any concern to proceed with a permanent garden in that park. After the meeting, Jill is hopeful that a report can go to the Arenas Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee to re-approve the garden permanently.

Garden Update: Natalie Ross, Garden Coordinator

The past 2 years have gone amazing. All the gardeners and neighbours are very happy with the garden have heard great feedback. The garden now has a watering system, thanks to Doyle Plumbing. The gardeners have cleaned up the trash from the river.

There is a demand for more plots. Thinking about the future, a pollinator garden would be something that the garden would be interested in.

Meeting Discussions:

Neighbour/Gardener:

- Backyard is too shady for a garden, so Community Garden is great. Also get to meet new people and neighbours. Huge meal with neighbours at the end of the season. Brings the community together.

Neighbour/Gardener:

- Backyard also too shady for a garden. The Garden is good use of public property. It's a great location. It doesn't interfere with view of park.

Neighbour:

- Here to observe the meeting. Really like the comment about bringing the community together.

Neighbour/Gardener:

- The community space is so important. It's a meeting space, for not only garden members, but neighbours too. The garden has really built a healthy community. Now knows several neighbours.

Neighbour/Gardener:

- Like the community aspect of the garden. Have met a lot of people while gardening. Concerned about the water drying up in the creek. Phil commented that the creek is not controlled, so there is nothing that he can do.

Neighbour:

- Concerned with the water being taken out of the creek. Is this an issue with ORCA? Response: This was investigated with ORCA before the watering system was created. It is permissible to take 50,000 gallons a day.
- Concerned with who monitors the lots. At the end of the season, there were tomatoes all over the ground. There also looked to be a few abandoned plots. Natalie responded that it is in the agreement that gardeners must look after their plots and clean up by Nov 1. They could lose their plot – those are the repercussions. Natalie also mentioned that they have volunteers that help clean up the plots and take all the garbage (garden waste) away.
- Is there going to be a cap on the size? Natalie responded that there have been requests for 3 more plots. 12 plots will be the cap.

Neighbour/Gardener:

- Had a wonderful experience gardening with her grandchildren.

Neighbour/Gardener:

- Great to see the number of people out in the park and gardening. It is a very positive environment. They shared a plot with their neighbour because of lack of space.

Neighbour/Gardener:

- Really appreciate the ability to participate in the garden. Her yard is also too shady. This has been a great learning experience. She didn't realize how much food a 10x10 plot can produce.

E-mails:

- Jill referred to emails that were sent in with positive garden comments

Community Garden Review (Jill):

Agreement between Nourish/City of Peterborough and the Gardeners

The agreement is reviewed annually.

Annual fee of \$15 for plot holders

Gardeners are expected to do a min of 1 hour per week of gardening.

Gardeners cannot give away their plot, or grow tall plants

If you are away, assign someone to take care of your plot

Gardeners will be given 14 days notice and may lose their plot if not taken care of properly.

Gardeners are not allowed to park on Nevin Ave.

Gardeners are not allowed to sell their produce

Final Remarks (Jill):

Jill emphasized that if you are away, have too much food, or cannot keep up with your garden, just let the Coordinator know. There is also a volunteer that can assist with the garden.

Jill will request to APRAC in January that the garden becomes permanent, that they expand by 3 plots (12 plot cap) and also incorporate a pollinator garden. All the gardeners seemed supportive of the pollinator garden and so did Phil Jacobs.

Appendix B

Comments provided by those who could not attend the November 14th meeting:

Response 1- Neighbour

“The garden is a terrific idea, and although I’m not around in the summer, I think it’s a wonderful idea and am so glad that the City came up with it.”

Response 2 - Neighbour

“I am not a plot holder in any community garden. However, the importance of these gardens in the community is immeasurable. Folks who don’t have the facility to grow their own produce are given the opportunity. This in turn builds community as neighbours who may not know each other come together to work the earth. In a world where food is shipped to and from great distances, the more we can produce locally, the healthier our food choices will be. Community gardens also work together to build a local sustainable food source leading to healthier eating. And last but not least, it just makes me feel good seeing community gardens scattered throughout the City. I drive past the Nevin Park location at least twice every day and always make a point of glancing at it. Recent research shows that if we take a few minutes each day to observe nature, our mental well being is strengthened. As more and more of our green space is built on and paved over, there are fewer opportunities to observe nature in an urban setting.

I would add that the folks who are gardening at the Nevin Park Community Garden are very conscientious. The area is always neat and there are never any unsightly items or trash left on site.

I implore you to give the Nevin Park Community Garden a permanent home in its current location.”