



City of
Peterborough

To: **Members of the Arenas Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee**

From: **Rob Anderson, Recreation Division Coordinator**

Meeting Date: **October 18, 2016**

Subject: **Report APRAC16-031
Presentation – Water Access for Community Gardens**

Purpose

A report to inform that the Peterborough Food Action Network and the Community Garden Network is advocating for equal access to reliable water sources for all community gardens.

Recommendations

That the Arenas Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee approve the recommendations outlined in Report APRAC16-031 dated October 18, 2016, of the Recreation Division Coordinator, as follows:

- a) That a joint presentation on reliable water sources for all community gardens by Jill Bishop from the Peterborough Community Garden Network and Dr. Rosana Salvaterra, Medical Officer of Health and Chair of the Peterborough Food Action Network, be received;
- b) That Staff be directed to initiate discussions between City Staff, the Peterborough Utilities Commission, The Nourish Project, and any other relevant parties deemed necessary to discuss options for the provision of reliable water sources at community garden sites within the City of Peterborough; and
- c) That staff be directed to report back to the Arenas Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee in the first quarter of 2017 on the outcome of the discussions referred to in recommendation (b) of this report.

Budget and Financial Implications

There are no immediate budget or financial implication resulting from the approval of the recommendations of this report. Any potential budget or financial implications arising through discussions related to recommendation (b) of this report will be addressed in a future report.

Background

On September 6, 2016, the City's CAO, Allan Seabrooke received a letter from Dr. Rosana Salvaterra, Medical Officer of Health, who is also Chair of the Peterborough Food Action Network (PFAN). The letter, which is attached as Appendix "A" is written on behalf of PFAN and the Peterborough Community Garden Network (PCGN), which operates under The Nourish Project.

The letter references the positive increase in the number of community gardens throughout the City and County of Peterborough over the past six years. However, the letter also identifies that it is a challenge for gardens without a reliable water source to remain sustainable. The PFAN and the PCGN are requesting that City Staff initiate discussions with the Peterborough Utilities Commission, The Nourish Project, and any other parties deemed necessary to discuss options for the provision of reliable water sources at community garden sites within the City of Peterborough. Staff is supportive of this request.

Dr. Salvaterra and Jill Bishop will attend the Arenas Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee meeting on October 18, 2016 to make a presentation on equal access to reliable water sources for all community gardens.

For reference, the City's Community Garden Policy is attached as Appendix "B". The Policy specifically relates to community gardens established on City-owned land. Currently, the following community gardens are established on land owned by the City:

1. Ashburnham Drive– Has a municipal water supply available
2. Barnardo Avenue – No municipal water supply available – pollinating garden
3. Bonaccord Street – No municipal water supply available
4. King Edward Park – Has a municipal water supply available
5. Nevin Park – No municipal water supply available
6. Rogers Street - Has a municipal water supply available
7. Stewart Park - No municipal water supply available

The PFAN and PCGN further request that consideration be given to amending the City's Community Garden Policy, to include a statement about guaranteed, reliable access to water for every community garden, new or established. The Policy is a corporate policy. Any amendments would require Council approval.

Submitted by,

Rob Anderson
Recreation Division Coordinator

Contact Name:
Rob Anderson
Phone: 705-742-7777 Ext. 1833
Toll Free: 1-855-738-3755
Fax: 705-748-8824
E-Mail: randerson@peterborough.ca

Attachments:
Appendix A – Correspondence from The Peterborough Food Action Network
Appendix B – The City's Community Garden Policy