



City of
Peterborough

TO: Members of the Arenas, Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

FROM: Terri Lynn Johnston, Permitting Recreationist

MEETING DATE: January 15, 2013

SUBJECT: Report APRAC13-002
Establishing a Community Garden at Stewart Park

PURPOSE

A report to request approval for a community garden to be established at Stewart Park.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Arenas, Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee approve the recommendation outlined in Report APRAC13-002 dated January 15, 2013, of the Permitting Recreationist, as follows:

That the establishment of a community garden within Stewart Park be approved.

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no budget or financial implication resulting from the approval of report APRAC13-002. If required, there is an approved 2013 community garden budget to support the establishment of this garden. At this point, there has been no request for the City to make a financial contribution towards establishing the community garden in Stewart Park.

BACKGROUND

On July 30, 2012, the Recreation Division received an application from the Peterborough Community Garden Network (PCGN) to establish a community garden at Stewart Park. An aerial view of Stewart Park, identifying the approximate area to situate the community garden within the Park is attached as Appendix “A”.

On October 15, 2012, the PCGN Coordinator met with residents in the surrounding neighbourhood of Stewart Park to identify if there is interest in establishing a community garden in that park. There were 12 residents that signed up that evening, indicating their interest in having a vegetable garden in the Park.

On October 17, 2012 the following City Divisions were notified of the application to establish the garden at Stewart Street Park, to determine if there were any concerns from the City’s perspective: Public Works, Engineering, Planning and Legal. There were no concerns from City Staff with establishing a community garden in Stewart Park.

On November 26, 2012, the Recreation Division distributed letters to over 250 homes within 120 metres of Stewart Park, inviting residents to attend a neighbourhood meeting about the proposed garden. Nine people attended the neighbourhood meeting. Their expression of interest in a Community Garden at Stewart Park was extremely positive. The discussion that night involved the location of the garden, partnerships, and ideas. There is a family who have volunteered to take the lead as Co-Chairs of a neighbourhood garden committee.

Even though the establishment of this community garden is in its earliest stage, great partnership opportunities and strong support for this garden have materialized, as follows:

- All Saints Church has committed to be a partner in establishing this new garden, by offering space any time the Gardeners need to meet. The Church hand delivered invitations to all their neighbouring residents to attend their Christmas Dinner. The invitation included information on the new garden. A member of the neighbourhood garden committee was invited to speak at their Christmas Dinner about the community garden.
- The John Howard Society has agreed to have their clients build trellises and raised garden beds for the garden, if the lumber can be donated. The PCGN and the committee will approach local business’s to donate the material and supplies.
- The Rubidge Retirement Residence has also expressed an interest in working with this new garden committee.

City staff recommends that a Community Garden be established at Stewart Street Park.

Submitted by,

Terri Lynn Johnston
Permitting Recreationist

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Attachments:
Appendix A – Aerial View of Stewart Street Park