

TO: Members of the Arenas Parks and Recreation Advisory

Committee

FROM: Ken Doherty, Director of Community Services

MEETING DATE: September 17, 2013

SUBJECT: Report APRAC13-032

Delegation Requesting Refresh of Millennium Park Gardens

PURPOSE

A report to receive a presentation from a delegation requesting improvements to the various gardens in Millennium Park.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Arenas Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee approve the recommendations outlined in Report APRAC13-032 dated September 17, 2013, of the Director of Community Services, as follows:

- a) That the delegation requesting improvements to the gardens in Millennium Park be received; and
- b) That staff be directed to explore the concerns further and to report back to the Advisory Committee before year end with a long term plan to upgrade the gardens in the park.

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no direct budget or financial implication resulting from the approval of Report APRAC13-032.

BACKGROUND

On June 18, 2013, City staff met with several community volunteers with longstanding involvement with the design and maintenance of several gardens in Millennium Park. They reported that \$30,000 had been invested in the original gardens but that 40% of the plantings had been lost in the first year. They met with the Parks and Recreation Board in 2001/02 to discuss the gardening challenges and maintenance issues.

There are currently 5-6 major gardens maintained by a range of community groups, like Bereaved Families and the Retired Teachers Federation. They would like to see a better program for weed removal and enhanced shrub and flower beds. Ideally, they would like the City to work with the various stakeholder groups to develop a long term plan to refresh and sustain the gardens throughout the park.

Gerry Turner and several other group representatives will attend the meeting to present their concerns and to express their on-going commitment to park improvements.

Submitted by,

Ken Doherty Director of Community Services

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