Minute No. 423
Report – Executive Policy Committee - May 9, 2007

Minute No. 4 Chochinov Bay Park - Land Dedication Reserve
File EP-2

COUNCIL DECISION:

Council concurred in the recommendation of the Executive Policy Committee and adopted the following:

1. That funding to assist with the cost of the Community Garden project at Chochinov Bay Park in the amount of $1,500.00 be allocated from the Lord Selkirk-West Kildonan Community Land Dedication Reserve to the Seven Oaks Neighbourhood Resource Network.

2. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

Report – Executive Policy Committee - May 9, 2007

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by His Worship Mayor Katz,
That the recommendation of the Executive Policy Committee be adopted by consent.

Carried

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On May 9, 2007, the Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Lord Selkirk-West Kildonan Community Committee and submitted the matter to Council.

COMMUNITY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On April 24, 2007, the Lord Selkirk-West Kildonan Community Committee supported the proposal of the Seven Oaks Neighbourhood Resource Network to use a portion of Chochinov Bay Park at Garden Park Drive, north of Leila Avenue for the establishment of a Community Garden.

Further, the Lord Selkirk-West Kildonan Community Committee recommended to the Executive Policy Committee:

1. That funding to assist with the cost of the Community Garden project at Chochinov Bay Park in the amount of $1,500.00 be allocated from the Lord Selkirk-West Kildonan Community Land Dedication Reserve to the Seven Oaks Neighbourhood Resource Network:

2. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

On March 12, 2007, the Lord Selkirk-West Kildonan Community Committee concurred in the request of the Community Gardens Committee of the Seven Oaks Neighbourhood Resource Network and laid over the matter to its meeting on April 24, 2007.

On January 16, 2007, the Lord Selkirk-West Kildonan Community Committee laid over the matter to its meeting on March 12, 2007 and requested the Sevens Oaks Neighbourhood Resource Network to carry out public consultation on its proposal, and report back to Committee thereon.

CHOCHINOV BAY PARK COMMUNITY GARDEN

Consultation Report

The Seven Oaks Neighbourhood Resource Network's Community Gardens Committee hosted a Community Consultation regarding the development of a community garden at Chochinov Bay Park on March 8, 2007.

- Two hundred flyers inviting residents living around the park to attend the March 8 community consultation were hand delivered by community volunteers.
- Additional posters were distributed to community places in and around the park and neighbourhood (i.e., community bulletin boards in public spaces).
- The Seven Oaks Neighbourhood Resource Network received the invitation to attend the Community Consultation. This Network was also asked to distribute the invitation throughout their own community networks.

Results of the Community Consultation – March 8, 2007

- A total of six residents who live adjacent to Chochinov Bay Park attended the Community Consultation (additionally, five members of the Community Gardens Committee were in attendance).
- The residents in attendance shared their interests and concerns about the proposed Community Garden. Information and ideas were shared on the following topics;
  - General site maintenance (i.e., who will ensure that the site is cared for and clean, not overrun with weeds and garbage).
  - Green space – residents were concerned that the proposed garden would take up much of the green space that children/families may use for recreations such as soccer, kite flying etc. The draft plans were shared with the residents. The intent and plan has always, and will remain to keep a considerable amount of open field available for this type of recreation. This is the space that boarders the residential area.

Mr. J. Lubinski
Superintendent North Area
City of Winnipeg
Parks and Open Space
1155 Pacific Ave.
Winnipeg, MB
R3E 3P1

September 11, 2006

Dear Mr. Lubinski:

RE: Seven Oaks Community Gardening Project

Over the past year the Community Gardens Committee of the Seven Oaks' Neighbourhood Resource Network (NRN) and the Seven Oaks Chronic Disease Prevention Initiative have engaged a number of small scale Community Garden projects.

The NRN is a coalition of residents, agencies, and businesses in Seven Oaks, all dedicated to improving the quality of life for area residents. The Seven Oaks Chronic Disease Prevention Initiative (CDPI) is a community-led, five year project that will make healthy living an easier choice for people who live in our community, through addressing issues of access to these opportunities and increasing opportunities in the community. For the purpose of the CDPI, we define "healthy living" as active living, healthy eating, and reducing or eliminating tobacco use. A list of people who are participating in the Seven Oaks Community Gardens Committee is attached.

Successful Community Garden projects have been initiated at Marymound School, Bleak House Centre (Senior Centre) and Belmont School. As a result of the interest and confidence created through participation in these projects, the Community Garden Committee is planning to embark on a larger scale Community Garden project in Seven Oaks.

We are very excited by the proposed community gardens project because of the clear health and social benefits it will offer people in our community. Gardening offers many therapeutic benefits and growing food will help those with a limited budget consume a healthier diet, an important component in disease prevention. Many of our residents live in apartments with no opportunity for gardening, therefore this project will help overcome this issue. Secondly, providing isolated populations with opportunities for social interaction with other community members will have a positive impact on their mental health.

The Committee requests the use of Chochinov Bay Park at Garden Park Drive, North of Leila Avenue. We would like to establish a Community Garden on this property. Our plans include;

- Ongoing community consultation in the development and use of the Community Garden, including notification of residents living in the vicinity of the park as well as the engagement of the Chochinov family,
- The construction of a number of raised and ground level planting beds,
- The construction of compost facilities,
- Securing a sustainable water supply,
- And construction of a storage shed for supplies.

Future development may include the addition of seating and pathways through the garden.

We would appreciate your reply to this request to utilize space at Chochinov Bay Park for the purposes noted above. The identification of a Community Garden site will allow the Community Gardens committee to move forward with plans to seek additional funding and create plans for the development of the site. We also request that the Seven Oaks Community Gardens Committee be informed of any processes that we would need to engage in to secure this or an alternate City of Winnipeg property for the development of a Community Garden. The Committee is interested in registering with the City of Winnipeg Adopt-A-Parks program.

Thank you for considering this request from the Seven Oaks Community Gardens Committee. We look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

Mardy Yager
Chair, Seven Oaks Neighbourhood Resource Network
Community Garden Committee

Seven Oaks Neighbourhood Resource Network
Community Gardens Committee

The Community Gardens Committee is comprised of individual residents, community groups and larger organizations. All are welcomed to participate!

Currently, there are members representing the following groups;

The City of Winnipeg – Community Services Department
Heifer International
The Home Depot
Parent Councils
Seven Oaks Healthy Living
Seven Oaks School Division
Seven Oaks Hearts in Motion™ Trail Committee
West Kildonan Horticultural Society
The Winnipeg Regional Health Authority – Community Facilitator