



Council Report

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Date: November 5, 2024
To: Anthony Haddad, City Manager
From: Sheri Raposo, Land Administrator
Address: 2460 Baskin Street (Parkland Community Garden)

File No: 4320-80

Subject: License to Use Agreement: Food Foresters Society

Staff Recommendation

THAT Council approve the five (5) year License to Use Agreement, renewal with Food Foresters Society of Canada for the purpose of operating a community garden (known as Parkland Community Garden) located at 2460 Baskin Street;

AND THAT Council authorize the Director of Finance and Administration and Corporate Officer to execute the License to Use agreement.

Strategic priority objective

Vision: Penticton is a connected, resilient and healthy waterfront city focused on safety, livability and vibrancy.

Background

Property Description

Parkland Community Garden is utilizing a total of 0.18 acres. The subject lands are currently zoned as Park. Aside from the community garden there has been no formal development of the site, and there are no immediate plans for this land.

Background

The Parkland Community Garden is a non-for-profit registered with the Food Foresters of Canada. Originally started in 2013 for residents of the Baskin Street and Kinney Avenue area. The 20-member Society started with 5 plots and has since grown to 21 plots due to the size of the property and the availability of suitable sun locations for plots.

Through donations and fundraising, two sheds to store tools have been added in the garden location. The area is fenced and secured.

The property is properly maintained and everything they grow is organic. A variety of herbs, fruit and vegetables. In addition, they have two houses for Mason Bees, lots of flowers for butterflies along with containers for composting yard waste. Excess fruit and vegetables are donated by club members to families that can use the donations.

There is no membership fee. Club members pay a fee based on the size of their garden plots, either 30, 40 or 50 sq ft. This ranges from \$30 to \$50 per plot. The plots are primarily rented by local residents in the area of Baskin Street and Kinney Avenue; however, the garden is open to any residents of Penticton based on availability.

The Society has had a License to Use Agreement (LTU) with the City since 2013 at a nominal rate. The current LTU Agreement has expired, and the Society has confirmed they wish to continue using the land for the purpose of operating a community garden.

In alignment with the Park Land Protection and Use Policy, on August 20, 2024, staff brought forward the request to Council to refer the three (3) year renewal of the License to Use Agreement to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee for their review and recommendation with the following outcome:

8.5 License to Use Agreement: Food Foresters Society of Canada

Re: Parkland Community Garden, 2460 Baskin Street

246/2024 **It was MOVED and SECONDED**

THAT Council refer the three (3) year nominal License to Use Agreement renewal with Food Foresters Society of Canada for the purpose of operating a community garden (known as Parkland Community Garden) located at 2460 Baskin Street, to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee for their review and recommendation.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Park Land Protection and Use Policy References

As the land that is being used is parkland, the Park Land Protection and Use Policy requires any Agreements within our parkland follow the proper step procedure and receive a committee recommendation. City staff completed their final procedural step and presented a report and a recommendation to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee (PRAC) on October 23, 2024, with the following outcome:

4.3 License to Use Agreement: Food Foresters Society of Canada Parkland Community Garden – 2460 Baskin Street, Penticton

THAT the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee recommend that Council direct staff to renew a five (5) year License to Use Agreement, with Food Foresters Society of Canada for the purpose of operating a community garden (known as Parkland Community Garden) located at 2460 Baskin Street.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

In accordance with the policy, staff originally proposed a three (3) year term for the Committees consideration. The Committee had a discussion around the term of the LTU agreement, acknowledging that this is a use that has been in place for years and, as such, the Committee is supportive of staff issuing a five (5) year LTU agreement.

License to Use Summary

The proposed term of the LTU Agreement will be for a five (5) year term. Food Foresters Society are requesting the same terms as the previous LTU Agreement.

The Society will continue to be responsible for the maintenance, day-to-day upkeep, water, safety and security of the garden.

The City will continue to attend to the start-up and blow out of the irrigation, as well as providing and delivering compost, soil and mulch materials on a consolidated request of once a year.

Financial implication

Under the proposed License to Use Agreement, Food Foresters Society of Canada will have a License to Use Agreement for the property for a \$1.00 nominal rate. The estimated cost implications for the City for this land is approximately \$500.00 per year.

Analysis

Community gardens are in alignment with early findings of the Food Security Strategy the City is currently working on with community partners. The Food Security Strategy addresses food security, which refers to the long-term security, resiliency and sustainability of our food systems. The strategy explores several factors such as the access to food-related social programming and networks, access to public garden spaces to address the rising cost of food and housing, all of which contribute to food insecurity. A key challenge which was identified was, due to the high amount of multi-unit housing, a large number of the population in Penticton does not have access to gardening space and that the City should look at opportunities to increase public gardening spaces.

With the last review from United Way British Columbia in January 2024, estimating that approximately 17% of British Columbians in the region were experiencing food insecurity, community gardens create community and long-term solutions to food security. Additionally, the Vital Signs Community Report produced by the Community Foundation of the South Okanagan Similkameen found that only 51.2% of South Okanagan households can afford an adequate amount of healthy food.

Those who participate in community gardens enjoy socialization and have better access to fresh fruits and vegetables. Community gardens also provide educational opportunities for the community to learn to plant

and preserve the harvest garden. Gardening also improves the emotional and physical well-being of people by providing social opportunities that build a sense of community and belonging; community gardens offer residents of Penticton a 'third space' outside of their homes and their places of work to congregate, socialize and connect. Furthermore, public gardening spaces have been shown to increase rates of inter-generational connectivity for youth and seniors and can act as a safe space for newcomers to Penticton to become involved in the larger community.

Alternate Recommendation

THAT Council direct staff to enter into a three (3) year License to Use Agreement with Food Foresters Society of Canada, for the purpose of operating a community garden (known as Parkland Community Garden) located at 2460 Baskin Street.

Attachments

Attachment A – Aerial view of Licensed Area

Respectfully submitted,

Sheri Raposo
Land Administrator

Concurrence

<p>General Manager, Infrastructure</p> <p><i>KD</i></p>	<p>Director, Finance & Administration</p> <p>AMC</p>	<p>Director, Community Services</p> <p>KJ</p>	<p>City Manager</p> <p>AH</p>
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