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MANAGER'S REPORT NO.	57
COUNCIL MEETING	90/09/24

1990 SEPTEMBER 19

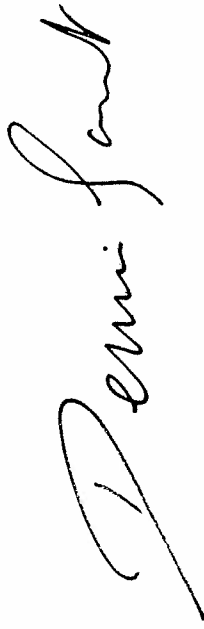
TO : MUNICIPAL MANAGER
FROM : DIRECTOR RECREATION & CULTURAL SERVICES
RE : BURNABY MOUNTAIN ROSE GARDEN
PURPOSE : To advise Council the Parks and Recreation Commission will seek cash donations rather than plant donations for the Centennial Rose Garden.

RECOMMENDATION

1. THAT this report be received for information purposes.

REPORT

At its meeting of 1990 September 19 the Parks & Recreation Commission received the attached staff report on the above subject and adopted the recommendations contained therein.



DENNIS GAUNT
DIRECTOR RECREATION &
CULTURAL SERVICES

tc
Attach.

RE: BURNABY MOUNTAIN ROSE GARDEN



RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT the Corporation not consider accepting individual donations of rose bushes as part of the Centennial Garden.
2. THAT staff pursue cash donations from individuals, groups and corporations for the rose garden.
3. THAT Council be so advised.

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REPORT

The Commission recently approved the concept of developing a rose garden on Burnaby Mountain as part of a centennial project for 1992. This issue was referred to Council to seek their approval for the use of chemical treatments as part of an integrated pest management program to maintain the garden. At that meeting, Council adopted the following recommendation:

"That Council request the Parks and Recreation Commission consider using the concept of individual donations of rose bushes, with the appropriate acknowledgments, as part of the Centennial celebration and as a means of acquiring plants for the garden."

Staff have examined the suggestion of accepting individual plant donations as well as discussed it with several rosarians who will be involved in the technical design details of the garden, and, with individuals responsible for maintenance of other public rose gardens in the Lower Mainland. In each case the recommendation has been not to accept actual plant donations.

There are three reasons why donated plant material should not be accepted:

1. Disease Control

The integrated pest management program requires that we begin with the hardiest most disease resistant species. A donation program would result in us receiving weak, diseased stock not appropriate for the site's growing conditions. This would increase the potential for disease leading to an infestation of otherwise healthy plants. In short, it would force our department to transgress one of the basic premises of an integrated pest management program namely that of beginning a development with clean, healthy stock and with plants adapted to the growing conditions of the site. The result would be an increase in the amount of chemical treatment.

2. Garden Quality

It is our intent to develop a showy display garden that would serve the residents, draw tourists and excite rosarians as well. This necessitates that we begin the garden with high quality nursery grown stock and to seek new varieties wherever appropriate. There is no guarantee that we would receive this through individual plant donations. As well, we would also receive unknown varieties or plants whose identification would be hard to confirm therefore complicating our intent to name each plant.

3. Cost Effectiveness

The cost of purchasing quality stock from a reputable rose grower is actually not a significant cost compared to the cost of associated amenities such as pathways, irrigation system, benches, trellises and planters. It is anticipated that we would install approximately 1,000

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plants at an average cost of \$10 to \$15 each. Thus, the total purchase cost will only be in the range of \$10,000 to \$15,000. It is conceivable that we could spend that much receiving donated plants which would have to be collected, stored, transplanted, pruned, watered more frequently and sprayed. Such extra work is expensive and would easily complicate the construction schedule thus jeopardizing the deadline for the project.

Instead, staff would recommend that private and corporate financial donations be considered as an alternative means of financing the project. This could still encourage public involvement in Centennial celebrations and, create a sense of public ownership of the garden. All donors' names could be included on a recognition plaque installed within the rose garden.

It is anticipated that a number of festivals and events will be scheduled during the Centennial which will permit public participation in the garden as suggested in the Council recommendation.

If desired, the Commission could launch a promotional fundraising campaign. A program could be developed by staff depending on how aggressively the Commission wants to promote the program. Letters to private corporations could be included in that campaign. It would appear timely for the Commission to discuss this matter in combination with an upcoming review of the Donation Brochure.

Scheduling a potential donation program for the rose garden is an important consideration. All funds for this work need to be arranged by early spring 1991 in order to complete the development for the Centennial in the spring 1992.

JWK/d1

