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MANAGER'S REPORT NO. 66
COUNCIL MEETING 91/11/12

TO : MUNICIPAL MANAGER 1991 NOVEMBER 07
FROM : DIRECTOR RECREATION & CULTURAL SERVICES
RE : BURNABY AND REGION ALLOTMENT GARDENS ASSOCIATION -
REQUEST FOR RENEWAL OF LICENCE AGREEMENT
PURPOSE : To request Council's approval of the renewal of a licence agreement with the Burnaby and Region Allotment Gardens Association.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT execution be authorized of the renewal of a licence agreement with the Burnaby and Region Allotment Gardens Association.

REPORT

At its meeting of 1991 November 06, the Parks & Recreation Commission received the attached report on the above subject and adopted the two recommendations contained therein.



DENNIS GAUNT
DIRECTOR RECREATION &
CULTURAL SERVICES

tc
Attach.

cc: Municipal Solicitor
Director Planning & Building Inspection

RE: BURNABY AND REGION ALLOTMENT GARDENS ASSOCIATION -
REQUEST FOR RENEWAL OF LICENCE AGREEMENT



RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT the licence agreement with the Burnaby and Region Allotment Gardens Association be renewed for a further 5 years, the terms being 1991 December 01 to 1996 November 30.
2. THAT Council authorize the execution of a renewal licence agreement with the Burnaby and Region Allotment Gardens Association.

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REPORT

The Corporation leases to the Burnaby and Region Allotment Gardens Association 14.2 acres of Municipal land south of Marine Drive, Block 6, District Lot 155A, Plan 1249, Group 1 NWD.

The land was first leased to the Association in 1982 March 01. The Association's purposes are:

- 1) "To provide opportunities for non-profit recreational fruit and vegetable gardening for residents of an urban area;
- 2) To provide horticultural advice and shared experience for the members and to encourage those who wish to undertake such gardening for the first time;
- 3) To perpetuate in an increasingly technological age, an awareness of the natural processes of food growing."

The Association's program has grown in popularity and support over the past ten years and currently operates at capacity with 368 garden plots on the site. As the attached report from the Association says: "The Association continues to provide a service which is not available by other means and is of particular value to retired people, to those on limited incomes, and to the increasing number of apartment dwellers in our urban environment."

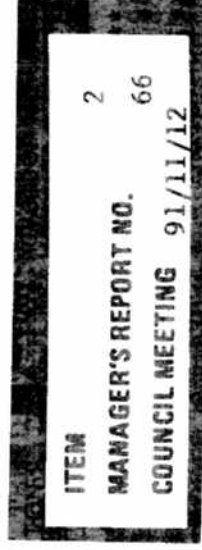
Staff support the continuation of the garden program. It is a quality recreational activity with added personal, economical, and health benefits to the community.

The Association does an excellent job of managing the site and has fulfilled its obligations within the terms of the licence agreement.

It is recommended that the licence agreement with the Garden Association be renewed for a further five year term.

ND:ps
Attach.

cc: Municipal Solicitor
Director Planning & Building Inspection



BURNABY AND REGION ALLOTMENT GARDENS ASSOCIATION

SUMMARY REPORT OF ACTIVITIES, 1987-1991

(Attachment to Request for
Licence Agreement Renewal
dated 91.08.15)

The Association was incorporated as a society under the British Columbia Society Act early in 1982. Its purposes are as follows:

1. To provide opportunities for non-profit recreational fruit and vegetable gardening for residents of an urban area,
2. To provide horticultural advice and shared experience for the members and to encourage those who wish to undertake such gardening for the first time,
3. To perpetuate, in an increasingly technological age, an awareness of the natural processes of food growing.

During the last five years of operation, the Association has continued to accomplish these purposes in a fiscally responsible and socially responsive manner. Its activities are summarized below in three sections dealing respectively with the management of the Association, the operation of the garden site and some measures of success.

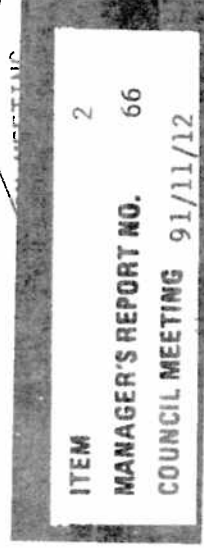
The Management of the Association

The Association holds its annual meeting each November or December. At that meeting the members elect a President, Vice-president, Secretary, Treasurer and three or four Directors at Large. The Directors meet regularly to conduct the business of the Association. They are able to call on the services of volunteer members for specific tasks from time to time.

The Association's bylaws provide the ground rules whereby members lease and operate garden plots at the site. A number of amendments to the by laws made in the Association's first five years resulted in a set which have worked well over the period of the current lease.

The operating revenue of the Association is derived almost entirely from fees paid by the members. These fees are of two kinds, a membership fee and a plot rental fee. The Association has always considered it important to have a level of fees which, while adequate for operation, is low enough to make it possible for senior citizens and others with limited incomes to enjoy membership. The last fee increase was in 1985 and for the whole of the five year period of the current lease, fees have remained unchanged at \$5.00 (membership) and \$40.00 (plot rental).

Two factors have been important in helping the Association to maintain this level of fees. One of these is that for four of the five years under consideration, a grant for the employment of a summer student worker has been obtained from the youth employment



funds provided by the federal or provincial governments. The other, and most important factor, is the generosity of the Municipality of Burnaby whose licence requires only a nominal rental fee for the occupancy of the site.

In budgeting for expenditures, the Directors need to allow for the fact that, although the fiscal year ends on December 31st, the collection of fees is not complete until April or May. Each year's budget thus includes a cash carry-over with which to begin the following year. Apart from this contingency allocation, expenditures fall into four categories: (a) administration, (b) site operation, (c) wages & benefits and (d) equipment & supplies. As a proportion of total expenditure, administration has accounted for between 12% and 18% of expenditures (a considerable reduction from the 25% in the previous five-year period). On aggregated figures, site operation has accounted for approximately 37% and the two categories of wages & benefits and equipment & supplies together have accounted for between 45% and 50% and have varied inversely with each other--when a substantial grant has been received, money which would otherwise have been used for hiring student help has been directed to the purchase of equipment and vice versa.

The Operation of the Garden Site

A substantial effort has been made in the past two years to reclaim a number of plots which had fallen into disuse, largely because of poor drainage or non-cultivation. This effort has now paid off so well that only four of the 372 plots at the garden site are not currently allocated. For the first time since the Association's incorporation, the site has virtually full occupancy. Members come to the gardens from ten different municipalities, although residents of Burnaby, New Westminster and Vancouver account for eighty-five per cent of the membership.

As a consequence of the larger number of gardeners and the fact that virtually all plots are now under cultivation, it has been possible to put more effort into the upgrading of the communal areas of the site. Members have been encouraged to use communally provided sawdust for making easy-to-maintain paths and the surface of the parking lot has been given a new application of hog fuel. A new "park" area has been created by the cutting back of bush just inside the Meadow Avenue entrance and a new shed has replaced the former small storage shed so as to provide good housing for an extended range of equipment. This equipment now includes fifteen wheelbarrows, a new rototiller, several mowers, a small tractor with both trailer and harrow attachments, a mulcher and a variety of other hand and power tools. All are available for the use of members, subject to the supervision of the Directors or delegated volunteers.

Measures of Success

In its 1986 report, the Association noted that one of the chief measures of its success was the continuation of an operation which had seemed doomed to closure in 1981 when the Ministry of Agriculture and Food terminated its provincial allotment garden program. Now, a further five years on, it is easy to overlook the fact that perhaps the chief measure of the Association's success continues to be the maintenance of one of the biggest allotment garden operations in North America. The Association continues to provide a service which is not available by other means and is of particular value to retired people, to those on limited incomes, and to the increasing number of apartment dwellers in our urban environment. In the past two years, the community service aspect of the gardens has been

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extended by making plots available to three organizations which care for people who in one way or another are handicapped--The Burnaby Association for the Mentally Handicapped, the Fraserside Community Services Society and the Spectrum Society.

The public recognition which was already evident in the first five years of operation has been maintained. The Association has been the subject of articles in local newspapers and was featured on Channel 4 Television in 1990. Also in 1990 it was awarded first prize for its booth among the horticulture participants in the Pacific National Exhibition, and visitors from a Chinese educational delegation toured the site in June, 1991.

These indicators of success, together with the fact that the Association now has more members than ever before, augur well for the future. In order to ensure that the Association will continue to provide a well used service, responsive to local needs and at a cost which is feasible for those on lower incomes, the goodwill of the Municipality of Burnaby is very important. The Association considers it has deserved a continuation of that goodwill and looks forward to a formal renewal of the partnership.

