

**Present:**

Chairperson - Councillor Steele  
Councillor Gill  
Councillor Hayne  
Councillor Hepner  
Councillor Hunt  
Councillor Martin  
Councillor Rasode  
Councillor Villeneuve  
Mayor Watts

**Absent:****Staff Present:**

City Manager  
City Solicitor  
Deputy City Clerk  
General Manager, Engineering  
General Manager, Finance & Technology  
General Manager, Human Resources  
General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture  
General Manager, Planning & Development

## A. DELEGATIONS

1. **Nancy Oike, Chair, Darts Hill Garden Park Conservancy Trust Society**  
File: 6140-20; 0550-20-10

In attendance before Council to provide an update on the Darts Hill Garden Park.

The following comments were made:

- The Chair of the Society introduced two directors of the Board: Marlene Gurvish – a founding Director and Douglas Justice – co-presenter – also founding board Chair, and Education Director for the Conservancy.
- Douglas Justice stated that the purpose of the presentation was to update Council on developments at Darts Hill Garden, about the Society, the challenges and needs.
- Slide presentation overview highlighted the following:
  - The garden was started by Edwin and Francisca Darts originally as an orchard in the mid-1940's. Through Francisca's vision the 7.5 acre parcel has developed into a world-class plantsman's garden.
  - The garden was donated to the City of Surrey by Mrs. Francisca Darts in 1994.
  - The City had the foresight to purchase an additional 15 acre parcel of land adjoining the historic garden. The new land became available for the services and expansion of horticultural activities while leaving the original garden of land intact.
  - The garden is a significant asset to Surrey containing unique plants that are of great interest to knowledgeable horticulturists, plantsmen, gardeners, and botanists.
  - The garden receives worldwide recognition and is included in the publication entitled "1001 Gardens to See Before You Die" and is widely reported on in magazines and newspapers.

- Visitors to the garden have included a number of international plant experts and a number of delegates to international conferences.
- Over 100 delegates of the International Society of Arboriculture which is holding its meeting here in Surrey attended the garden today.
- The garden is a quiet oasis for the citizens of Surrey. It is a place of all season beauty and is growing as a tourist attraction as our hours increase.
- The garden is operated jointly by the Dark Hills Trust Society and the City of Surrey.
- The Society appreciates the City's continued support through the provision of dedicated employees who:
  - develop and maintain the garden beds
  - partner with the Society to put on events
  - assist in promoting the gardens' activities
  - provide recognition to our volunteers; and
  - serve on the Dark Hills' Board.
- The Society appreciates the direct support of the Mayor and Council through attendance at such events such as last spring's celebration of Francisca Darts' life.
- Volunteer activities include:
  - horticultural experts conducting tours;
  - offering a wide variety of education services including:
    - plant labelling;
    - production of intuitive signage; and
    - production of our quarterly newsletter
- The propagation volunteers regularly generate somewhere in the neighbourhood of \$6,500 per year via plant sales.
- The Alpine Garden Club and the South Surrey Garden Club have both developed display beds at Darts Hill, as Francisca Darts was a beloved and long term member of both groups.
- Planning to invite additional groups to participate in accordance with our vision for the garden to be a center for our local horticultural societies.
- The garden still has its challenges – staffing is one of them. Since the garden was donated in 1994, the scope of gardening work has expanded considerably. New beds and extensive landscaping has been added around the parking, public access and service areas.
- The scope of responsibility for the garden has doubled, the staff has not. We have just one dedicated gardener to maintain the entire 22 acres.

- In comparison, VanDusen Botanical Garden has seven dedicated gardeners to maintain 55 acres or approximately one full-time gardener for each eight acres. Both gardens employ seasonal help but our park technician scope of responsibility is well over twice as much as those at VanDusen.
- Challenges on the site itself. This is a mature garden which is becoming overgrown in places and requires constant care and renovation.
- It is a garden that is built on clay subsoil which has a relatively thin layer of fertile topsoil and this causes drainage problems which need to be remedied in order to prevent disease and damage to the plantings. The garden staff constantly works to improve drainage conditions while carrying out their daily tasks.
- Furthermore, some of the aging infrastructure is crumbling and is in need of upgrade. In particular, our drainage pond needs to be upgraded to improve both its functionality and its appearance. The pond is located adjacent to our main gathering area in a very prominent position.
- The Chair of the Society stated that they had two requests of Council:
  1. the Society has a vision for the pond and has received estimates of approximately \$140,000 for the desired improvements. The Society has plans to raise \$70,000 and respectfully requests a matching contribution of \$70,000 from the City; and
  2. on-going funding for an additional full-time garden employee who operates at a higher level than a Parks Technician and can fulfill both directing and gardening responsibilities.
- The Society realizes that the City has many parks and limited resources, but in order to maintain the garden, in a way to meet both the City of Surrey standards and the requirements of the Darts Hill Trust Agreement, additional staffing is desperately needed.
- In summary:
  - the Darts Hill Trust Society is an active, enthusiastic organization with a passion for Darts Hill and its unique plants;
  - has a mandate to preserve the garden in the spirit of Francisca and Edwin Darts; and
  - the desire to increase access so the garden can be enjoyed by all.
- The Society appreciates Council's interest, welcomes questions and invites Council to see the garden's amazing fall colors on our final open days of the season – Saturday September 28th and October 19th.
- Council advised that it would be prudent for the Society to establish a Business Plan that says this is what we will charge for access to the garden, similar to VanDusen Gardens.

- Delegation noted that at present the garden is open by donation. The Society does not really have a business plan. The garden has a fee per entrance basis in the Fees and Charges Policy however that is generally for guided tours, which are booked through our call center. To collect funds, you need someone there to collect the funds and the attendance to the gardens is not high enough yet to rationalize having someone solely collecting funds.
- The Acting Chair thanked the Delegation for its presentation and advised that staff would review the Society's requests.

2. **April Lewis, BC Representative CARP with Denise Thompson,  
Events Director, White Rock Surrey Chapter**

File: 0250-20; 0550-20-10

**Note:** See proclamation under item E.1(a) of Regular Council Public Hearing Agenda.

In attendance before Council to provide an update on the advocacy work the Canadian Association of Retired Persons (CARP) does to raise awareness, protect the interests, rights and quality of life for seniors as they age.

The following comments were made:

- CARP is here to share good news, extend appreciation, to make a request and to share what CARP is all about.
- CARP, formerly the Canadian Association of Retired Persons, is a national non-partisan, non-profit organization, committed to a new vision of aging for Canada. There are 14.5 million Canadians over the age of 45. CARP's mandate is to promote and to protect the interests, rights, and qualities of Canadians as they age. Our vision is a society in which everyone can live active and purposeful lives as they age. Our mission is as follows:
  - Advocacy – advocating for social change that will bring social security, equitable and timely access to healthcare and freedom from discrimination and that includes ageism;
  - Benefits – making the marketplace responsible for what consumers want; and
  - Community – building a sense of community and shared values.
- CARP is the only advocacy group that has the whole media platform. Our President, Moses Znaimer, has many TV stations, radio stations and media outlets and supports us financially and helps with awareness and advocacy work.
- There are now well over 300,000 members across the country and when our President took it over in 2008 we had fourteen volunteer chapters in Canada and now we have 56 and have just opened another chapter in Richmond, BC.

- In terms of advocacy, under the leadership of Susan Eng, Vice President, Advocacy, CARP has become the first contact for politicians and the media on issues relating to Canada's aging populations – whether it concerns elder abuse, the rights of older workers, better pension provisions or the importance of family care givers with CARP being at the forefront. The six point plan on elder abuse was recently presented before the Federal Minister of Justice.
- This fall, Susan Eng, will be appearing before the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance to present CARP's vision for the upcoming Federal Budget. The thrust of this year's brief will focus on efforts to reduce the number of older Canadians (one in six seniors) living in poverty or living on the edge of poverty due to inadequate retirement savings, precarious employment, being layed off, no workplace pension or poor investment protection.
- CARP recognizes all the work that the City of Surrey, under the direction of Mayor Watts, does in these areas and also all of the seniors in the City (Zoomers) who work diligently to improve the way of life for aging citizens.
- Across Canada – October 1 will be recognized as Seniors Day, and CARP will be raising the CARP flag right across Canada. October 1st was selected to raise awareness of CARP's contributions to our communities and participate in the newly recognized National Seniors Day which is also recognized as the United Nations International Day of the Older Person. The Federal Government instituted October 1 as National Seniors Day in 2011 celebrating the continuing contribution of Canadian seniors. Across Canada, CARP will raise its flag in 40 of the 56 chapters from Labrador to British Columbia – locally the flag will be raised in White Rock, Vancouver, North Vancouver and Langley.
- CARP is delighted for the support of the City and that Council will be proclaiming National Seniors Day. It is CARP's hope that Council will agree to raise the flag in support of all the wonderful seniors, living in Surrey and across the nation, and National Seniors Day in 2014.
- CARP would like to have the word Seniors removed from the lexicon and replaced with ZOOMERS.

There were no questions and/or comments.

**B. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL**

**C. CORPORATE REPORTS**

**D. DELEGATION REQUESTS**

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E. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

F. OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

G. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by Councillor Hunt


Seconded by Councillor Martin

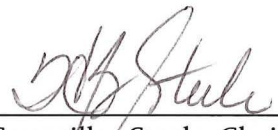
That the Council-in-Committee meeting do

now adjourn.

Carried

The Council-in-Committee adjourned at 5:32 p.m.

  
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Claudia Jesson, Deputy City Clerk

  
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Councillor Steele, Chairperson