



INFORMATION REPORT

TO:	Chair and Members Public Works Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	August 14, 2014
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Establishment of Labyrinth Peace Gardens in the City of Hamilton - (PW14081) - (City Wide) (Outstanding Business List Item)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
PREPARED BY:	Adam Watson (905) 546-2424, Extension 5522
SUBMITTED BY:	Gerry Davis, CMA General Manager Public Works Department
SIGNATURE:	

Council Direction:

The following motion was approved at the October 2, 2013, General Issues Committee meeting:

“That the appropriate staff meet with representatives from the Culture of Peace Hamilton in an effort to work toward a goal of formalizing a method for a peace garden or labyrinth in the City of Hamilton, incorporating the three elements of peace gardens, and additional parks in the City, and report back to the Public Works Committee.”

This Information Report will allow this item to be removed from the Outstanding Business List.

Information:

The purpose of Culture of Peace Hamilton is to steward the co-creation of symbolic Fields of Peace Gardens throughout Hamilton. These gardens incorporate design features such as flowers, spiral paths, labyrinths, art and peace poles and are intended to be designed and maintained by neighbourhood garden stewards. Currently there is one community-run peace garden located on City-owned land at the Aviary grounds in Churchill Park and preliminary plans are underway for a garden in Shamrock Park. In addition there are peace gardens located at City Hall and Smith’s Knoll that were built and are maintained by the City.

As Culture of Peace Hamilton intends to construct more peace gardens across the City, it is necessary to set up a process to review and approve potential garden sites that are intended to be located on City-owned lands. Upon review of the mission and intent of

**SUBJECT: Establishment of Labyrinth Peace Gardens in the City of Hamilton
(PW14081) - (City Wide) - Page 2 of 2**

the Culture of Peace initiative and their potential use of City-owned lands for the creation of ornamental gardens for community use, staff has determined that the existing Community Garden Policy can be used to review and approve all future Culture of Peace gardens. The Community Garden Policy was passed by Council in April 2010 to provide a clear process for the licensing of City-owned lands for the construction and operation of community gardens. Although the majority of community gardens focus on food production, the policy also lists ornamental gardens as an acceptable use.

The community garden application process requires that the applicant be a group of four to six residents or a not-for-profit organization. The application is to be submitted to the Public Works Department for review of the proposed site and if approved, staff grant a license for use of the specified lands. A formal license agreement contains the terms of the agreement, the permitted uses and standards for the site, insurance requirements and costs payable, if any (i.e. water charges if accessing municipal water supply). The policy also clearly defines the initial support the City will provide to establish the new garden, which includes preparation of the site (sod removal, tilling of the soil) and delivery of compost and wood chips if required. The City can also provide access to affordable liability insurance to cover all garden users and visitors through the Recreation Division's Game Day insurance program. A copy of the Community Garden Policy is attached as Appendix A to Report PW14081.

This policy has been used to successfully establish four new community gardens in the past four years, with a fifth currently in development. This process will provide the Culture of Peace and its garden stewards with control over the design and operational aspects of the site while providing the City with clearly agreed upon use, standards and indemnification from any liability issues. In consultation with Martyn Kendrick from Culture of Peace Hamilton, he has stated that he is supportive with moving forward with the licensing of new peace gardens on City-owned lands through the established Community Garden Policy.