

The logo for QEXCA, with the letters 'QEXCA' in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

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Civics Report to the AGM, Oct. 3, 2023

In my second year as Civics Director my focus was to continue attending civics-related meetings and events on behalf of QEXCA, maintain our Twitter page, and stay on top of resident concerns and local developments.

I attended the Ward 7 Civics Group meeting in January where the City of Saskatoon's Flood Control Strategy was presented and discussed. For our neighbourhoods this meant the dry pond in W.W. Ashley Park and the dry pond going in at Weaver Park. Construction of the dry pond in Weaver Park will hopefully wrap up this fall and be open to the public next fall after a one-year period of landscape maintenance.

Earlier on in the summer I attended the Town Hall meetings hosted by Councillors Block and Loewen. The major issue raised by the public at both meetings was the development of the Downtown Event and Entertainment District, as well as the roll-out of the city-wide green bin program. I took the opportunity at the Ward 7 Town Hall to raise a question about the proposed soccer stadium at Prairieland Park and the impact it would have on our neighbourhoods. Since then, however, the project been postponed indefinitely and does not seem to be going forward any longer.

Elon Musk acquired Twitter and began implementing numerous changes to the platform, ultimately re-branding it altogether as 'X'. This made the platform very unreliable and much less useful for me as a civics/news gathering tool. Because of this, we will be folding our 'X' account into the rest of our social media portfolio.

I didn't receive any specific resident concerns this past year that needed addressing, which is hopefully a good sign. The proposed soccer stadium for Prairieland Park was the only major development that would've directly affected our neighbourhood, but as mentioned this project is no longer going forward.

Much like the first year, I wasn't able to do as much with the civics portfolio as I had envisioned originally when we drafted the role. Work has gotten much more busy and involved for me over the past two years, the demand for a civics following in the community never really materialized, and other than the failed soccer stadium proposal there were no major developments for our neighbourhoods. I am grateful for the experience of serving in this role, but as life continues to keep getting busier for me, I don't see myself having the time and energy to commit to this portfolio as I would like. For this reason, I will not be renewing my tenure as Civics Director going forward.

Thank you all for this opportunity and putting up with all of my long-winded (and late) reports!

Respectfully submitted
Dustin Harrison
Director, Civics

