

Presentation by the Friends of the Public Gardens

winter, 2007

re: The Public Gardens – 2007 Budget

- The Friends of the Public Gardens commend HRM council and staff on taking action with Phases 1 and 2 to restore the Public Gardens.
(Phase 1 was clean up from Hurricane Juan and infrastructure development. Phase 2 is improvements to Horticultural Hall and washrooms)
- The Friends believe that Phase 3, the development of a comprehensive management plan for the Public Gardens, is critical to restoring and ensuring the long-term health of the Gardens.

Over the last 30 to 40 years, as the City has altered the way in which the Gardens is managed, the governors and managers have lost two key things:

1. the central horticultural purpose that drove the Gardens' development.
2. the human resource(s) and organizational structure necessary for creating a spirited and exciting horticultural experience.

It is critical to retrieve and reanimate the horticultural purpose and program and to restore the human resources and organizational structure required to achieve that purpose. We recognize that the completion of the management plan is no small

job requiring a range of competence, but we are keen to see it completed as soon as possible so that the real work of revitalizing the Gardens can begin.

- We have enquired about the capital funds for Phase 3 that were allocated in the 2006 Budget but were not spent. Peter Bigelow has confirmed that the funds will be carried over into the 2007 Budget. The Friends are relieved to know that the funding will not be lost, and we strongly urge HRM to place a high priority on Phase 3 so it will be completed in 2007.

- We were pleased to be consulted by HRM staff during the initial planning for Phase 3, and we look forward to working with them on this important project.

ALSO, for your information,

- We expect to have the revised publication on the Gardens for sale in late spring.
- The Friends received a bequest of over \$100,000 from the estate of Margaret Jarvis, in memory of her father, Tom Wallace. This bequest is to be dedicated towards a capital project in the Public Gardens.
- The Friends want to work with the appropriate HRM staff to develop a plan for these funds.

Thank you for your attention.