

Good Afternoon, Mayor Fougere, City Councilors and Committee Members. My name is Alvin Knoll and I am here to speak in support of the motion before you regarding the reinstallation of the Glockenspiel.

I have had several opportunities to speak to this issue over the past few months and would like to reiterate the importance of the Glockenspiel to the German community both as a tribute to our cultural heritage and as a symbol of cultural diversity and harmony in the City of Regina. It is very important to us for the Glockenspiel to take its rightful place in Victoria Park alongside the many other cultural works of art and monuments that can be found throughout the city.

I have had the opportunity to work closely with the German community, City staff and the Community and Protective Services Committee and would like to thank them for the work that has been done to bring this motion forward.

I have also had the privilege of working with members of Heritage Regina, the Regina Multicultural Council, the Regina Downtown Association, the Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan and several city Councilors – all of who have endorsed the reinstallation of the Glockenspiel.

Last Thursday afternoon several members of the German community and I were invited to the City Yard to inspect the bells and the Bell Tower. I was impressed with the condition of the bells and how they have been wrapped and stored in a secure place. The Bell tower itself will need to be refinished but this is not a serious or difficult problem to fix. I am grateful for the opportunity to have viewed the bells and would like to thank the Community and Protective Service Committee for arranging the viewing. It gave us confidence that the restoration of the bells is perhaps not as big a challenge as was first surmised.

Recently a number of people from Regina and across the continent who have some expertise with bells and glockenspiels have contacted the city and the German community. There are now more opportunities to pursue a better cost for the project and these should all be explored.

The original inscription on the plaque of the tower spoke of “ringing in harmony as all cultures come together”. For the people who worked so hard to have the Glockenspiel erected in 1985 it was a symbol of the diversity of this city working together for the good of all people. This is an ideal we still value.

Respectfully,
Alvin Knoll