SUBJECT: First Place Hamilton Senior Service Centre (CS06005) (Ward 3)

RECOMMENDATION:

(a) That First Place Hamilton Senior Service Centre be directed to submit their request for $25,000 to support their volunteer/recreation program to the 2006/2007 Community Partnership Program.

(b) That Item “R” respecting the First Place Hamilton Senior Service Centre be identified as completed and be removed from the Community Services Committee Outstanding Business List.

Joe-Anne Priel
General Manager
Community Services Department

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

First Place Hamilton Senior Service Centre has submitted two requests:

1) That seniors who have memberships in their recreation programs be allowed reciprocal membership in city-owned recreation centres; and,

2) That the City of Hamilton provide their organization with an additional $25,000 annually to support their recreation programs.

Staff support the request for reciprocity and will develop the necessary protocols and policies. In terms of the request for funding, staff is recommending that the organization submit their request for funding to the Community Partnership Program.
BACKGROUND:

First Place Hamilton Senior Service Centre is a multi-purpose, residential complex with over 450 residential units for active, self-sufficient seniors, and 75 assisted living units. The organization offers meals, homemaking and emergency contact services, as well as recreational programs and volunteer services. The programs are financially supported through resident fees, a $5,640 annual operating grant from Culture and Recreation and a $9,812 grant from the Community Partnership Program.

In 2000, First Place Hamilton Senior Service Centre began to allow non-residents access to their recreation programs. They are currently offering 37 programs and are serving over 400 individuals who either live in the residential complex or the surrounding neighbourhoods (Landsdale, Stinson and Beasley).

Given the increasing demand for programming, First Place Hamilton Senior Service Centre has requested reciprocal access to city-operated recreation programs, as well as an additional $25,000 in funding support.

ANALYSIS/RATIONALE:

Currently there are programs offered at four senior recreation centres across the City (Sackville Hill Seniors Centre and Ancaster Seniors Achievement Centre, owned and operated by the City of Hamilton, and the MacNab Street YWCA Seniors Centre and the Ottawa Street YWCA Seniors Centre). All of these senior recreation centres charge an annual membership fee of $25 that allows individuals 55 years of age and over access to any of the four centres. It would be consistent with this approach to offer the same cross benefits to the First Place Hamilton Senior Service Centre’s members.

As First Place Hamilton Senior Service Centre has opened its programs to the surrounding community, their attendance has increased. The request for additional funding is to meet that increase in programming demand.

ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION:

a) That First Place Hamilton Senior Service Centre submit their request for $25,000 to the Community Partnership Program.

b) Council could consider the $25,000 as an increase to the annual operating grant the organization currently receives. This would require consideration through the 2006 budget deliberations as an enhancement. This may encourage other seniors clubs (Warden Park Seniors, Riverdale Seniors, Dundas Seniors, and Winona Seniors, etc.) to also approach the city for annual operating funding.

FINANCIAL/STAFFING/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

Financial:
The organization’s request for additional funding from the 2006/2007 Community Partnership Program may impact the availability of funding for other existing or new programs depending on the total amount available in 2006.
Staffing:
There are no staffing issues associated with the recommendations in Report CS06005.

Legal:
There are no legal issues associated with Report CS06005.

POLICIES AFFECTING PROPOSAL:
The request for a reciprocal agreement between First Place Hamilton Senior Service Centre and other City senior recreation service centres was reviewed in accordance with the policies governing the current reciprocal agreements.

RELEVANT CONSULTATION:
First Place Hamilton Senior Service Centre Staff
Finance & Corporate Services

CITY STRATEGIC COMMITMENT:
By evaluating the “Triple Bottom Line”, (community, environment, economic implications) we can make choices that create value across all three bottom lines, moving us closer to our vision for a sustainable community, and Provincial interests.

Evaluate the implications of your recommendations by indicating and completing the sections below. Consider both short-term and long-term implications.

Community Well-Being is enhanced.  ☑ Yes ☐ No
Participation in community life is accessible to all seniors. Opportunities for physical activity are supported and enhanced.

Environmental Well-Being is enhanced.  ☑ Yes ☐ No
The partnership agreement with other senior recreation centres might facilitate access to programming for seniors at centres that are closer in proximity.

Economic Well-Being is enhanced.  ☐ Yes ☑ No

Does the option you are recommending create value across all three bottom lines?  ☒ Yes ☐ No

Do the options you are recommending make Hamilton a City of choice for high performance public servants?  ☐ Yes ☑ No

This does not apply in this case.