SUBJECT: Canadian Blind Golf Championship Opportunity (PED08212) (City Wide)

RECOMMENDATION:

a) That Report PED08212, respecting the Canadian Blind Golf Championship, be received.

b) That any future bidding opportunities for the Canadian Blind Golf Championship event, and others, be referred to Tourism Hamilton’s Sport Tourism Advisory Committee.

c) That the item respecting “Hosting the Canadian Blind Golfers’ Championship” be identified as completed and removed from the Committee of the Whole Outstanding Business List.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

At its meeting of April 10, 2007, Council requested a staff report on the hosting potential for the Canadian Blind Golf Championship. Staff has reviewed the sport and recent hosting opportunities. In Ontario, blind golf is governed by the Ontario Visually Impaired Golf Association (OVIGA), which runs the Canadian Open Blind Golf Championship. The 2008 event will take place September 8-10 at the Cambridge Golf Club in Cambridge, Ontario. The Ontario Visually Impaired Golf Association (OVIGA) had three events...
scheduled for Hamilton in 2008. Two of these events have already taken place – one in May at the Chedoke Golf Course and one in August at Chippewa Creek Golf Course. The third event is scheduled for October 11 at Flamborough Hills Golf Club. In 2007, Tourism Hamilton worked with the organizers of a blind golf event called the Nations Cup. The Nations Cup featured match play between a North American team and an International Team, and was organized by Six Nations. It was held at Chippewa Creek Golf Course.

At the national level, sports are typically governed by a National Sport Organization (NSO) which manages Canadian championship events for their respective sport. However, with blind golf the Western Canada Blind Golf Association (WCBGA) administers the national championship event each year. The WCBGA comprises the four western provinces (British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba), and their constitution mandates that they host a championship tournament on an annual basis in a location within western Canada. The WCBGA limits event participants to golfers who reside in the four western provinces.

In researching the sport of blind golf, staff could not find any current information pertaining to future bidding opportunities for Canadian Championships. However, Tourism Hamilton staff will continue to monitor future bidding opportunities.

**BACKGROUND:**

The International Blind Golf Association (IBGA) is the governing and sanctioning body of blind golf events worldwide. The IBGA is dedicated to promoting the sport, and assisting blind golfers to enjoy golf. The Western Canada Blind Golf Association (WCBGA) is a member of the IBGA, thus governs blind golf events in Canada. The 2008 Canadian Blind Golf Championship was sanctioned by the WCBGA and hosted in Port Alberni, British Columbia. The championship was held over two days on the August long weekend and featured 19 golfers representing seven provinces.

**ANALYSIS/RATIONALE:**

Tourism Hamilton’s Sport Tourism Action Plan’s key goal is to attract provincial, national and international sport events to Hamilton. The Action Plan is aided by the Sport Tourism Advisory Committee (STAC) which provides strategic advice and direction, and evaluates and makes recommendations on sport event bidding opportunities. The STAC is comprised of sport leaders from within our community, as well as members of City Council, and is well positioned to respond to sport event hosting opportunities.

**ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION:**

N/A

**FINANCIAL/STAFFING/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:**

Financial: N/A
Staffing: N/A

Legal: N/A

**POLICIES AFFECTING PROPOSAL:**

Sport Tourism Action Plan

**RELEVANT CONSULTATION:**

Tourism Hamilton Board of Directors

**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.

Community Well-Being is enhanced. ☑ Yes ☐ No

Hosting sport events helps contribute to economic development, sport development and participation, and is a positive means to engage the community and increase civic pride.

Community Impact:

Cultural Impact:

Demonstrates the City’s commitment to celebrating diversity and fostering an inclusive environment.

Environmental Well-Being is enhanced. ☐ Yes ☐ No

N/A

Economic Well-Being is enhanced. ☐ Yes ☐ No

N/A

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

N/A

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

N/A

DA:TC-S