Council Direction:

On November 28, 2007, Council received correspondence from Mark Strongman, Ancaster Little League, respecting the City of Hamilton hosting the 2010 Canadian Little League Championships. Council referred the correspondence to the General Manager of Community Services for a report to the Emergency and Community Services Committee.

Information:

At its meeting of November 28, 2007, Council considered the letter received from the Ancaster Little League, dated November 5, 2007, (attached as Appendix A to Report CS09034), regarding the Ancaster Little League being selected to host the Canadian Little League Championships from August 4 to 12, 2010.

The Canadian Little League Championship is a prestigious event attracting six teams from across Canada, including 2,000 spectators, coaches and players.

In the correspondence, Mr. Strongman, past President of the Ancaster Little League, requested the opportunity to explore the partnership opportunities with the City in order to enhance the capital infrastructure (redevelopment of the diamond) in the Ancaster Little League Park site. In addition, the Ancaster Little League is seeking the necessary approval to design and construct a new clubhouse, which they are prepared to fully fund.

In the 2008 Capital Budget, Open Space Development and Parks Planning, Public Works Department received $257,000 in capital funding for the Ancaster Little League...
Diamond Redevelopment, which included site work to the diamond. The diamond redevelopment work is 95% complete.

Further to the diamond redevelopment work, the Recreation Division staff has provided assistance to Mr. Strongman, Ancaster Little League designate to the project, in order to identify funding opportunities to build a new clubhouse. In November 2008, a Trillium Application was denied and to date, they have not as yet found another source of funding.

The Ancaster Little League cannot advance the new clubhouse project at this time as they do not have the necessary funds. Capital funds need to be confirmed by April 30, 2009, in order for construction to be undertaken and completed by August of 2010. A final deadline of April 30, 2009, has been given to Ancaster Little League. If funding is confirmed, City staff will continue to work with the organization to complete the capital project and guide them in the design, construction and agreement that would be required.

Without the funding, the organization would use the existing clubhouse and supplement the site with temporary services for the event. This would include, at their expense, portable washrooms, along with canopy tents as required for event logistics, etc.

In addition, the Recreation Division through the Sport Development Office and Tourism Hamilton will continue to work with the event organizers to ensure a successful event.

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Joe-Anne Priel,
General Manager
Community Services Department
Mayor and Members of Council
71 Main Street West
Hamilton, ON
L8P 4Y5
Nov. 5, 2007

Dear Mayor and Members of Council:

Re: Ancaster Little League selected host City for the 2010 Canadian Little League Championships

In 2006, the Canadian Little League selected Ancaster Little League as the Host City for the 2010 Canadian Little League Championships. Little League Players and their families from across Canada will gather in Ancaster August 4 - 12, 2010 to compete.

This is first time in 16 years, that any Canadian Championships have returned to this area. Regina Saskatchewan was the last host and we are hopeful to follow their success. We anticipate attracting upwards of 2000 players and coaches and spectators to the championships. Our vision to provide a memorable experience and leave a legacy that will support Ancaster Little League for years to come.

In order for the vision to be fully recognized, it is critical that work be done to the infrastructure at Little League Park. It is proposed that Ancaster Little League look at a partnership with the City to jointly undertake capital works. Ancaster Little League is committing to design, construct and fully fund a new Clubhouse.

Ancaster Little League is requesting the opportunity to meet with City staff, to explore the partnership opportunities to ensure we host the best championships ever.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely

Mark Strongman
President, Ancaster Little League
City Liaison 2010 Canadian Little League Championships.

Cc: Councillor Ferguson, Ward 12