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Appendix A: Letter to Sports Organizations

November 8, 2012

Dear Sport Organizers,

On July 11, 12 and 13, 2012 City Council adopted a number of items regarding Item EX21.8 Outdoor Sports Field Provision, Maintenance Standards and Fee Structure. Council has directed the General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation to:

- 1. City Council approve the introduction of the proposed sports field permit fees for children and youth organizations to be phased in over two years, so that the rates for 2013 will be \$3/hour for A fields, \$2/hour for B fields, \$1/hour for C fields; and the rates for 2014 will be \$6/hr for A fields; \$4/hour for B fields; \$2/hour for C fields, conditional on implementation of the field improvement plan and achieving the field maintenance standards; and further, that dry pad permit fees remain at \$0/hour until such time as the maintenance needs for these facilities are reviewed and reported to Council.*
- 2. City Council request the General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation, in co-operation with sports organizations, develop and communicate an implementation plan for the steps outlined in this report to strengthen the City's partnership with sports organizations and to improve the quality of sports fields: including the process and timelines for completion of the sports field classification and maintenance standards review, pre and post-season field condition audits, current utilization statistics and sports field capacity assessment, allocation of sports turf crews, clarifying roles, responsibilities and contributions of sports organizations, inclement weather and block booking policies, and the establishment of a Sport Organization Reference Group, and report back to Council after the 2013 season on the status of implementation, and to confirm fees for 2014.*
- 3. City Council direct that the permit fees for 2015 be considered through the User Fee Review process, and that any increases be phased in over time, with appropriate consultation and in a manner that allows the sports groups to adjust their fees accordingly.*
- 4. City Council direct the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation to consult with sports organizations, including the Toronto Sports Council, on the development of a long-term fields plan and capital financing strategy for sports fields, as*

approved by Council in April 2012, and report to the Parks and Environment Committee in the spring of 2013.

5. *City Council direct the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation to review the divisional program and permit policies with respect to age of participants and report to the appropriate standing committee on recommended changes to the permit policies to reflect the City definition of "youth."*
6. *City Council direct the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation to establish a policy and criteria for partial or full waiving of permit fees, at the discretion of the General Manager, in the interest of ensuring affordable access to outdoor sport in all communities.*
7. *City Council request the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation to include sufficient resources to implement the program in his 2013 Operating Budget.*

Parks, Forestry and Recreation would like to meet with sports field user groups to provide an update on the status of sports field maintenance, provide an overview of the sports field improvement work plan, discuss future challenges, and plan the next steps in moving forward with this work.

One of those steps will be to structure an ongoing working relationship between the sports groups and the City, so that together we can work on the following:

- Review and adjust the field classification system and maintenance standards
- Develop a process for auditing fields pre and post season
- Examine field capacity, hours of use standards and scheduled 'rest' periods of identified sports fields
- Develop 'block booking' and 'rain date' policies
- Improve the quality of sports fields

You are invited to attend a meeting of sports field users on November 29, 2012 from 7 pm to 9 pm at North Toronto Memorial Community Recreation Centre located at 200 Eglinton Ave W, Toronto, ON M4R 1A7.

Parks, Forestry and Recreation is looking forward to working with you to improve the quality and safety of sport fields.

Yours Truly,

Jim Hart