



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Donation from Royal York Baseball League for development of a Bantam sized Diamond at Connorvale Park

Date:	March 25, 2015
To:	Parks and Environment Committee
From:	General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation
Ward:	Ward 6 – Etobicoke Lakeshore
Reference Number:	P:\2015\Cluster A\PFR\PE03-041515-AFS#20913

SUMMARY

This report seeks approval from City Council to accept a donation of \$250,000.00 from the Royal York Baseball League (RYBL), to support the creation of a new bantam sized baseball field at Connorvale Park, Ward 6. Planning work is scheduled to begin in Spring 2015 with completion scheduled for Fall 2016. It is anticipated that the new field would be ready for play in Spring 2017.

According to the “Policy on Donations to the City for Community Benefits,” City Council approval is required to accept donations from any individual or organization whose cumulative value over the course of the fiscal year exceeds \$50,000.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division recommends that:

1. City Council accepts the donation in the amount of \$250,000.00 from Royal York Baseball League, for the purpose of creating a new bantam sized diamond at Connorvale Park in compliance with the Policy on Donations to the City for Community Benefits.
2. City Council authorizes the General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation (PFR) to negotiate and enter into an Agreement with Alan Waffle, President, Royal York Baseball League, that defines the terms and conditions of use for the donated funds at Connorvale Park, all in a form and content satisfactory to the City Solicitor.

3. City Council amend the 2015 Parks, Forestry and Recreation Capital Budget by increasing the capital project known as Ward 6 Baseball Field Improvements, in the amount of \$250,000, for a total project cost of \$1,000,000. The \$250,000, contingent upon the donations being accepted and received, is to be cash flowed over two years, with \$25,000 in 2015 and \$225,000 in 2016.

Financial Impact

The total value of the donation is \$250,000. No tax receipt will be issued to Royal York Baseball League.

The Council-approved 2015 Capital Budget for Parks, Forestry and Recreation includes a capital project known as Ward 6 Baseball Field Improvements, with a project cost of \$750,000 with a cash flow of \$80,000 in 2015 and \$670,000 in 2016.

The donation of \$250,000 requires an amendment to the Council-approved 2015 PFR Capital Budget to increase the total project cost from \$750,000 to \$1,000,000, with the \$250,000 cash flowed over two years: \$25,000 in 2015 and \$225,000 in 2016.

The additional operating budget impact to maintain and support the new Ward 6 Baseball Field is estimated at \$25,000 annually and will be the same with the added improvements as a result of this donation. This additional funding request will be submitted for consideration as part of the 2017 Parks, Forestry and Recreation Operating Budget submission.

The Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

Decision History

At its meeting on April 10 and 11, 2012, City Council adopted Executive Committee Item EX18.5 titled "Donation from Jays Care Foundation for Refurbishment of the Smythe Park Baseball Diamond" authorizing the acceptance and expenditure of \$175,000 contribution from the Jays Care Foundation for purpose of refurbishing the infield, backstops and dugouts at baseball diamond #1 in Smythe Park.

Decision Document – Executive Committee Item EX18.5

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2012.EX18.5>

At its meeting on October 8, 9, 10 and 11, 2013, City Council adopted Parks and Environment Committee Item PE22.12 titled "Request to Accept Donated Funds for the Refurbishment of Neilson Park Playground in Scarborough-Rouge River –Ward 42" authorizing the acceptance and expenditure of \$74,500 from Scarborough Baseball Association from a grant received by the Toronto Blue Jays, Jays Care Foundation for the purpose of refurbishing diamond #2 at Neilson Park.

Decision Document – Parks and Environment Committee Item PE22.12
<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2013.PE22.12>

On March 10 and 11, 2015, City Council adopted the 2015 Capital Budget for Parks, Forestry and Recreation, including the capital project "Ward 6 Baseball Field Improvements," under Executive Committee Item EX3.4 23.a.i

Decision Document – City Council Item EX3.4
<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewPublishedReport.do?function=getCouncilDecisionDocumentReport&meetingId=9689>

ISSUE BACKGROUND

During the period 2001 -2010, The Toronto Blue Jays, Jays Care Foundation funded over \$1 million in baseball field improvements across the City. In 2010, the program granted \$150,000 towards field improvements at Stan Wadlow Park. In 2012, the program granted \$175,000 towards field improvements at Smythe Park baseball diamond. In 2014 the program granted \$74,500 towards field improvements at Neilson Park, Scarborough.

The Partnership Development Unit of Parks Forestry and Recreation has worked with numerous community groups and baseball associations to help develop and submit applications for funding through the Jays Care Foundation Field of Dreams Program.

In 2014 the Partnership Development Unit assisted the Royal York Baseball League to prepare a grant application requesting \$150,000 from the Jays Care Foundation Field of Dreams Program. By leveraging existing capital funding dedicated to Ward 6 Baseball Improvements in the 2015 Parks, Forestry and Recreation Capital Budget, the grant application was successful and funding was awarded. The Royal York Baseball League was also able to contribute an additional \$100,000 to the project by fundraising with local partners including Humber College and the Etobicoke Baseball Association. The Royal York Baseball League has demonstrated the need for the creation of an additional diamond in the area.

COMMENTS

The Royal York Baseball League is one of the largest youth baseball organizations in Toronto with over 900 registered participants each year. The creation of a new diamond at Connorvale Park will allow local youth baseball organizations to accommodate growing demand for baseball programming in the area.

CONTACT

Ann Ulusoy, Director, Management Services, Parks, Forestry and Recreation, Tel: 416-392-8190, Fax: 416-397-4899, E-mail: aulusoy@toronto.ca

Rob Richardson, Manager, Partnership Development, Management Services, Parks, Forestry and Recreation, Tel: 416-392-9861, Fax: 416-392-0050, E-mail: rrichard@toronto.ca

SIGNATURE

Janie Romoff
General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation