

From: Scott Fairley

Sent: August 7, 2020 10:28 AM

To: Farr, Jason <Jason.Farr@hamilton.ca>

Cc: Office of the Mayor <mayor@hamilton.ca>; clerk@hamilton.ca

Subject: Commonwealth Games, Funding for existing sports

Dear Cllr. Farr,

I am writing to formally object to Hamilton bidding on the Commonwealth Games. I am also proposing an alternative.

There is no shortage of evidence that hosting events such as the Olympics or Commonwealth Games rarely benefits the host city. Facilities fall into disuse and disrepair, and cost overruns are the rule and not the exception. At best, it would offer a one-time economic boost that would not offset the costs of hosting and maintaining legacy facilities.

However, if the City believes that promoting amateur sports is a priority, I believe there is a viable alternative in our existing amateur athletic competitions. The Around the Bay road race is one of the oldest of it's kind, and a fraction of the funds that would go towards the Commonwealth Games would have a lasting impact on an event that annually brings in thousands of people to our hotels, restaurants, bars, and shops. Likewise, the Road2Hope Marathon has a reputation as a fast course and reliably brings thousands to our city. Other races around the city and our trails are also worthy of support, namely the Boxing Day 10-miler, the Happy Trails racing series, the Ancaster Mill race, the Paris to Ancaster bike race, and the Sulfur Springs 100 trail race. I would be happy to provide more information about local races and events if you like.

Ultimately, I would love to see Hamilton embrace these events like Boston does for it's Marathon, which as any Hamilton runner will remind you, hasn't been around as long as Around the Bay.

As these would require minimal financial support to both offset their losses from Covid-19 cancellations and to realize their potential as events that Hamilton can embrace as a unique part of our amateur sports culture in an ongoing way.

Ultimately, I feel that the choice between providing support for one event with no guaranteed economic benefit and several events with proven economic benefits and the potential for growth should be easy. I hope you feel the same way.

Regards,

Scott Fairley
Ward 2 Resident