

SCHEDULE 2 TO THE MINUTES
OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES
COMMITTEE MEETING OF
MONDAY, MAY 5, 2008.

Comments to GP meeting re Abandonment of Childcare Project in Hamilton

Wolf Strecko, Hamilton Community Association

May 5, 2008

1. Mayor Brodie and councillors have heard the needs expressed by Hamilton residents a number of times,

in personal meetings with residents in their homes (Mayor),
at our association meetings (Councilor Chen) and
at our community coffee mornings (Councillor McNulty)

at Neighbourhood TownHall Meetings in 2003, 2004 and 2006,
through several rounds of Needs Assessment surveys and Facility Reports,
and ... a number of presentations to committees and council meetings like today's

2. The top priority needs expressed have repeatedly been the same:

Child care (consistently the No. 1 expressed need)

a Library branch, some sort of fitness setup (alternating in priority)

and more multi-purpose space to offer these, and other, programs and services.

3. Council and staff have been very supportive, and helpful in having the community express it needs.

However, recently we have also been getting advice from Senior staff along the lines of:

Hamilton projects are too small to be of interest to staff, compared with other large and more visible projects the City is working on.

It's ok to make your needs known, but stirring up too much of a fuss will work against you.

What does Hamilton want? childcare, a library or a fitness centre? you have to choose one.

We would prefer to receive counsel and support on how to make projects happen in Hamilton, not to be told that projects can't happen because they are in Hamilton.

Our 'ask' to you today is the same - Raise the priority of providing services in Hamilton, clearly, in your budgets, and for City staff.

Today, help us find a way to make a Childcare project happen in Hamilton.