

# HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

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## HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES FEBRUARY 6, 2001

PRESENT: Mayor Peter J. Kelly  
Deputy Mayor Jerry Blumenthal  
Councillors: Gary Hines  
Keith Colwell  
Ron Cooper  
Harry McInroy  
Brian Warshick  
Condo Sarto  
Bruce Hetherington  
Jim Smith  
John Cunningham  
Dawn Sloane (3:20 p.m.)  
Sue Uteck  
Sheila Fougere  
Russell Walker  
Diana Whalen  
Linda Mosher (2:20 p.m.)  
Brad Johns  
Robert Harvey  
Reg Rankin (3:10 p.m.)  
Gary Meade

ABSENT: Councillors: Steve Streach  
Stephen Adams  
Len Goucher (regrets)

STAFF: Mr. Ken Meech, Chief Administrative Officer  
Mr. Wayne Anstey, Municipal Solicitor  
Ms. Vi Carmichael, Municipal Clerk  
Ms. Julia Horncastle, Assistant Municipal Clerk

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - January 23, 2001 .....	03
2.	APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS .....	03
3.	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES .....	03
4.	SPORTSFIELD SERVICING STRATEGY .....	04
5.	ADJOURNMENT .....	05

Mayor Kelly called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

**1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**MOVED by Councillor Hetherington, seconded by Deputy Mayor Blumenthal, that the minutes of January 23, 2001 be approved as circulated. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**2. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS**

**MOVED by Councillor Hetherington, seconded by Councillor Smith, that the Order of Business be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**3. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES**

- A memorandum, dated February 1, 2001, on the above noted, was before Council.

Mr. Dan English, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, introduced the item, advising community development was one of the eight business strategies developed in 1999. The concept was that staff would flush out and bring definition to the whole concept of community development by examining what is currently taking place in the various business units as it relates to community development. He advised the purpose of the presentation was to present the framework and approach.

Ms. Cathy Mellett, Project Manager, Shared Services and Mr. Bob Nauss, Regional Coordinator, Recreation Programming, through a Powerpoint presentation, outlined the report advising, there is a need for community input and evaluation relative to planning and HRM services. The HRM Corporate Community Development Strategy will outline how staff will work interdepartmentally and with the communities to provide better service and to help the communities.

Mr. Nauss outlined the Calgary approach advising, this is the model on which the HRM initiative is being based.

Ms. Mellett stated the proposal is for an action based plan for the next six to eight months. Staff has identified that the community development approaches are not always the way to proceed; therefore, staff will be approaching this slowly to ensure that they can build their staff understanding, knowledge, training and experience. The project will deliver a defined corporate strategy for community development, a tested model, a mechanism for coordinating and delivering services, staff who have experience in working in community development and

a document that talks about what the HRM strategy is going to be.

Mayor Kelly thanked staff for the presentation.

#### **4. SPORTSFIELD SERVICING STRATEGY**

- A report prepared for Karen MacTavish, Director Parks and Recreation, dated February 1, 2001, on the above noted, was before Council.

Mr. Dan English, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, advised a presentation had been made relative to the condition of the HRM sportsfields in September, 2000.

Mr. Peter Bigelow, Manager, Parks and Open Spaces, with the aid of overheads, presented the report noting the following:

- staff would like to provide greater access to field sports and to improve the level of maintenance both on a daily and seasonal basis;
- staff is looking to reduce the current renewal cycle;
- staff would like to allow for a growth in sport;
- there are limited maintenance resources available;
- fields are being over utilized because of a shortage of fields;
- daily maintenance practices need to be improved;
- there is a need to increase seasonal maintenance practices;
- there is a need to provide additional facilities;
- there is a need to tighten construction specs and standards;
- there is a need to improve the mowing cycle;
- restructuring the approach to how sports fields are provided;
- improve the monitoring control of the fields;
- there is a need to balance school use;
- the fields need to be given a season of rest so that they can have an opportunity to regenerate;
- staff has to examine the overall demographics and look at future trends and needs.

In response to Councillor Fougere, Mr. Bigelow advised that to incrementally improve service, there is a need to increase their budgets in terms of their overseeding and fertilizing program, to have increased manpower and a program to carry out operation and seasonal repairs.

Councillor Fougere suggested staff consider a clustering of fields to attract future sporting events.

Councillor Hetherington stated stakeholder meetings would be very crucial.

Councillor Hines noted that the public has to be educated and sports teams have to be made aware that they are somewhat responsible as well. The Councillor suggested an alternative would be to establish corporate sponsorship.

Councillor Uteck stated there is a need to look at a return to park patrol services for the dedicated ball fields throughout the Municipality in the upcoming budget.

At this point in the meeting, Council agreed to hear a presentation from Mr. Don Chard.

Mr. Chard addressed Council speaking in support of the direction staff is taking.

Councillor Cooper stated that the fields have to be properly cycled and restored.

Deputy Mayor Blumenthal suggested the Municipality look at the possibility of public/private partnerships.

Councillor Smith suggested mechanisms be put in place to provide playing time for organizations that may not have the ability to pay.

In response to Councillor Sloane, Council was advised a "D" field is one that is inadequate for a large level of play but meets the basic community needs noting, there is no charge for use of such a facility.

Mr. Naugler introduced the members of the Athletic Advisory Committee: Mr. Don Chard, Dartmouth United Soccer, Mr. Steve Ault, Halifax District Soccer and Mr. Jim Perkins, Halifax Minor Baseball.

In response to Councillor Smith, Council was advised that a green area receives the basic level of maintenance which would include mowing, whipping and only a seasonal application of fertilizers and lime just to keep the grass growing. It would probably not receive any overseeding and would be treated similar to passive areas. The Councillor requested staff examine the possibility of upgrading the Lahey Field to a "D".

## **5. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOVED by Deputy Mayor Blumenthal, seconded by Councillor Hetherington, that the meeting be adjourned at 3:45 p.m. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Vi Carmichael  
Municipal Clerk**

