

# HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

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## HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES November 13, 2001

### PRESENT:

Mayor Peter J. Kelly  
Deputy Mayor Robert P. Harvey  
Councillors: Gary Hines  
Ron Cooper  
Harry McInroy (1:20 p.m.)  
Brian Warshick  
Condo Sarto  
Bruce Hetherington  
Jim Smith (2:25 p.m.)  
John Cunningham  
Jerry Blumenthal  
Dawn Sloane  
Sue Uteck  
Sheila Fougere (1:30 p.m.)  
Russell Walker  
Diana Whalen (1:25 p.m.)  
Linda Mosher (1:20 p.m.)  
Stephen Adams (1:45 p.m.)  
Len Goucher  
Reg Rankin  
Gary Meade

### REGRETS:

Councillors: Steve Streach  
Keith Colwell  
Brad Johns

### STAFF:

Mr. George McLellan, Acting Chief Administrative Officer  
Mr. Wayne Anstey, Municipal Solicitor  
Ms. Vi Carmichael, Municipal Clerk  
Ms. Julia Horncastle, Assistant Municipal Clerk

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1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m.

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

**MOVED by Councillors Blumenthal, seconded by Councillor Goucher, that the Order of Business be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

3. **ROCKY LAKE RECREATION ASSOC - RECREATION & LIFESTYLE CENTRE PRESENTATION - Mr. Jerry Inman**

- A copy of the Rocky Lake Recreation Association Community Sport and Lifestyle Complex Business Plan, dated October 2001, was before Council.
- Correspondence from Mr. Ed McHugh, President Basketball Nova Scotia, dated November 13, 2001, on the above noted, was circulated to Council.

Mr. Jerry Inman, Treasurer, Rocky Lake Recreation Association, with the aid of a PowerPoint presentation, addressed Council advising:

- The Association represents the communities of Bedford, Fall River and a portion of Hammonds Plains and surrounding communities;
- the total cost of the facility will be \$7,430,000.00 noting, they are looking at funding through the three levels of government as well as through an area rate and fund raising efforts;
- they plan on building a “turn key” project which will be transferred to the HRM upon completion;
- an organization will be set up at the end of the building phase to manage the project;
- they are before Council requesting to be placed on the 2002 HRM infrastructure capital project listing as well as requesting \$1.5 million in funding as the Municipal contribution;
- there is a lack of affordable facilities which has resulted in limited enrollment;
- the land will be provided by the Rocky Lake Development Corporation for \$1.00;
- the communities and HRM need this facility.

In response to Councillor Blumenthal, Mr. Inman advised the facility is hinged on the fact that the three levels of government have to provide funding. They have had discussions with the other levels but, at the present time, they have no signed commitment. He stated that both levels of government have indicated until the project is on the HRM infrastructure list, they are not eligible for funding from either the Federal or Provincial governments.

In response to Councillor Walker, Mr. Inman advised the proposed area rate would be one cent per one hundred dollars of assessment, which would raise \$123,000 per year. On further question, it was noted the area rate would be for Bedford and part of District 2.

Councillor Hetherington stated that when a report comes from staff it include an assessment of how it will affect existing facilities.

Deputy Mayor Harvey suggested any staff report needs to tell Council if this proposal fits in the overall strategy of providing recreation to HRM and if so, how. Also, if this is the optimum location.

(Deputy Mayor Harvey assumed the Chair at 1:45 p.m.)

Councillor Warshick suggested that if the development of the facility proceeds, provision be made for exterior washrooms and changing rooms. The Councillor requested staff also examine the debenture issue.

Councillor Mosher asked that her ringette petition, previously circulated at a Regional Council session, be addressed in the report relative to the ice facilities.

Councillor Goucher stated that Bedford needs such a facility and it needs to be added to the project list.

**MOVED by Councillor Goucher, seconded by Councillor Hines, that the Rocky Lake Recreation Association report be forwarded to staff for comment and brought to Council for consideration during budget deliberations of the HRM Federal Infrastructure submissions. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mayor Kelly thanked Mr. Inman for his presentation.

**4. ST. MARGARET'S ARENA AND COMMUNITY CENTRE EXPANSION REPORT PRESENTATION - Mr. Tim Hill**

- A copy of the St. Margaret's Arena & Community Centre Expansion Report was circulated to Council.

Mr. Tim Hill, Chairman of the Board, advised the association is run by volunteers with very little cost to the Municipality. He referenced the Burke Oliver report and noted the report had called for upgrading and expansion of the St. Margaret's facility and had set out recommendations as to how these recommendations should be implemented. He noted that the facility is now owned by HRM and they have entered into a long term management

agreement with the Municipality whereby they would continue to operate and manage the facility for the benefit of the Municipality and the citizens involved. Mr. Hill stated there is an acute need in the community for the rink portion of the proposal.

Councillor Walker referenced the noted capital sources of funding and asked if these were all loans. In response, Mr. Hill advised the first \$3 million was not contemplated to be a loan rather this was contemplated to be the grant portion of the project. They intend to raise \$1.7 million from the community. He noted some of the pledges will be over a three year period; therefore, there will be a need to finance the project over that period of time.

Councillor Warshick noted that projects have been identified are higher than the current capital budget for Parks and Recreation.

**MOVED by Councillor Rankin, seconded by Councillor Meade, that the presentation be referred to staff and that it receive every fair consideration especially in the context of what Council has already provided, that is the process, the Burke Oliver report and measures already undertaken to this date pursuant to that process.**

Councillor Whalen requested that when the report is done on the needs, staff look at the current population figures.

Mr. McLellan, Acting CAO, advised it will be difficult for staff to respond to these presentations without taking into account such things as the implications of equalization, assessment and economic downturns. He advised staff will not be looking to change the infrastructure list as it stands today, noting these proposals will be dealt with as expeditiously as possible but cannot be dealt with in their uniqueness.

In response to Councillor Goucher as to whether there will be alternatives coming forward from staff, Mr. McLellan advised staff will be looking at this in the context of how HRM can do as much as it can in terms of alternatives for the facilities.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Mayor Kelly thanked Mr. Hill for his presentation.

**5. NATIONAL CALIBRE SPORTS VENUES**

- A report from Karen MacTavish, Director, Parks and Recreation, dated October 31, 2001, on the above noted, was before Council.

Mr. Peter Bigelow, General Manager, Parks and Recreation Services, with the aid of a PowerPoint presentation, advised:

- This report was as a result of a request of Council to ascertain what ability HRM had to host national type sporting events;
- National events happen at a number of different levels and that level determines the type of facility and how well appointed that facility is;
- One of the benefits is the economic spin off;
- There would be positive exposure for HRM;
- When you provide these high level facilities you are also providing these for your local athletes so that they are able to train on good facilities and they are actually able to compete on those facilities;
- You are also exposing younger participants to higher levels of play;
- It also provides a sense of community pride;
- Staff is confident, with facilities such as the Metro Centre, Forum, Sackville Sports Stadium, Sportsplex, HRM is well positioned to accommodate those types of events;
- Standards have increased since many of these facilities were built and the expectation for amateur sport is greater;
- HRM and the community relies on the university facilities;
- HRM has a variety of accommodations;
- Staff has outlined a plan that would see recapitalization of existing facilities noting, it is just a proposal and demonstrates what the requests are from the community.

**6. STANDARDS FOR RESIDENTIAL/ROOMING HOUSE OCCUPANCIES**

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

Due to scheduling of meetings, Council agreed to adjourn at 3:25 p.m. with the discussion on this item and any outstanding item being continued on Tuesday, November 20, 2001.

Vi Carmichael  
Municipal Clerk