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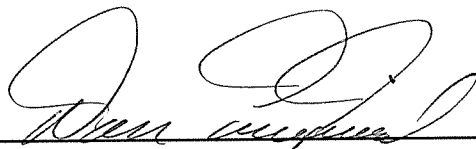


PO Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3A5 Canada

Halifax Regional Council
May 9, 2006

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY:



Dan English, Chief Administrative Officer



Wayne Anstey, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: April 28, 2006

SUBJECT: Atlantic Acadian Games

ORIGIN

In March 2006 a delegation from Events Halifax and the Conseil Communautaire du Grand-Havre attended a bidders information meeting in New Brunswick regarding the Atlantic Acadian Games. Subsequently, on April 16, 2006 Councillor Younger requested a staff report be prepared on the possibility of HRM becoming involved in a bid to host the Games.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that :

Halifax Regional Council support in principle the Conseil Communautaire du Grand-Havre's (Acadian Community Centre) intention to submit a bid, with assistance from Events Halifax, on behalf of HRM to host the Atlantic Acadian Games in 2008.

BACKGROUND

The Conseil Communautaire du Grand-Havre is a Dartmouth-based community centre that is responsible to coordinate Acadian activities within the HRM. They are based at Ecole Grand-Havre on Avenue du Portage in Dartmouth.

The regional Acadian Games is an annual event that in 2005 attracted 3,534 athletes. Athletes are aged 10 to 17 must be of Acadian decent. 87,195 athletes have attended the games since 1979. The event has been held for 29 consecutive years and has never been hosted in Nova Scotia.

In recent months, members of the community have approached HRM staff and a Councillor to explore the possibility of hosting an Acadian Games. In March of 2006 staff from Events Halifax attended a Jeux de L'Acadie meeting in New Brunswick to obtain the bid guidelines.

On April 11, 2006 the Conseil Communautaire du Grand-Havre approved the concept of creating a bid to secure the 2008 Atlantic Acadian Games.

DISCUSSION

The Jeux de L'Acadie require any municipality that is considering a bid to pass a motion approving, in principle, an expression of interest in developing a bid to host the games. The expression of interest is due by May 2nd, but given the busy Regional Council schedule leading up to May 2nd and the need for staff to review background information about the games, a short extension has been granted to HRM to indicate its intent to submit a bid.

The games will take place in June 2008 and would use existing facilities throughout HRM. The 2008 Games will mark the first time that Newfoundland and Labrador will participate. There is significant interest in hosting the event from both the local Francophone community and the Atlantic Francophone community in Nova Scotia.

Games held in other locations within the Maritimes have shown strong tourism results, particularly for pre- and post-event visitation. As a youth oriented event, attendance is traditionally high as families travel to the event together. As well, the focus on youth recreation coordinates well with HRM's goal to promote active and healthy living and Council's Focus Areas of Youth and Community Recreation.

Events Halifax will continue to meet with HRM representatives and the Conseil members to prepare all necessary bid documents and act as project manager and advisor during the bidding process. After submitting the bid documents, Events Halifax will sit on the Host Organizing Committee as an advisor and ensure all necessary legalities (i.e. society incorporation, event cancellation insurance and Directors insurance) are implemented. In addition, HRM has the option of including staff and Council representatives on the organizing committee for the event.

The final bid is due on June 23, 2006. Staff from Events Halifax and/or HRM will return to Council with the completed/detailed bid draft for consideration before the bid is submitted to the Jeux de L'Acadie group. At that time, Council can decide whether to continue with the bid process.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Financial details will be outlined in the draft bid package that will be presented to Council for consideration. There are no costs to HRM associated with either submitting the bid or submitting the notice of intent to bid.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES / BUSINESS PLAN

This report complies with the Municipality's Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved Operating, Capital and Reserve budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Capital and Operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation.

ALTERNATIVES

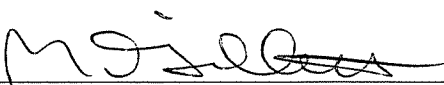
Halifax Regional Council could choose not to support the Conseil Communautaire du Grand-Havre's (Acadian Community Centre) intention to submit a bid on behalf of HRM to host the Atlantic Acadian Games in 2008. This is not recommended.

ATTACHMENTS

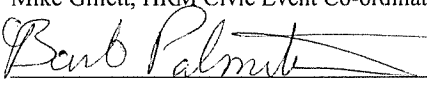
None

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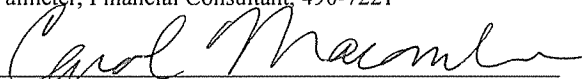
Report Prepared by:


Mike Gillett, HRM Civic Event Co-ordinator, 490-4782

Financial Review:


Barb Palmeter, Financial Consultant, 490-7221

Report Approved by:


Carol Macomber, Acting Director of Community Culture and Economic Development, 490-5908