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Halifax Regional Council
December 13, 2005

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY:


Carol Macomber, Acting Director of Recreation, Tourism and Culture

DATE: December 2, 2005

SUBJECT: Lake District Recreation Association (Sackville Arena)

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

Halifax Regional Council meeting of July 6, 2004, Item 11.8, Councillor Harvey - Lake District Recreation Association (LDRA)

Halifax Regional Council meeting of July 13, 2004, Item 12.1, Councillor Harvey - Addition of Information Item #14 - Sackville Arena - Request Infrastructure Program Priority to the Regional Council Agenda.

BACKGROUND

In July 2004, correspondence from Robert Rines, President, Lake District Recreation Association (LDRA) was before Council. Mr. Rines, made a brief presentation to Council regarding Sackville Arena, a facility owned and operated by the LDRA. Mr. Rines advised that a structural assessment had uncovered that the arena structure did not meet codes in terms of snow loads and the facility required significant upgrades. To assist in funding the required upgrades, the LDRA was seeking federal infrastructure funding through the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA). The LDRA was asking for support from HRM in the form of a special Council motion of support to include their project in the ACOA infrastructure program.

Councillor Harvey spoke in support of the LDRA, stating that the Sackville Arena programs complement HRM's recreation mandate and that Council should make every effort to allow the LDRA to proceed with their application. A Council motion directed that staff be authorized to endorse the LDRA's federal infrastructure application providing that it did not contravene HRM's policy with regard to the endorsing of not-for-profit organizations for infrastructure funds.

DISCUSSION

Upon receipt of the request from Council, staff noted that the LDRA has been active in the Sackville Area for over 20 years and fill an important void with respect to the operation of the Sackville Arena, providing opportunities for leisure and community usage. In light of this vital role played by the LDRA in enhancing RTC's service delivery in the Sackville area, staff had several conversations with the LDRA on ACOA's Canada - Nova Scotia Infrastructure Program and other possible funding options. As a result, the LDRA secured funding from ACOA and the Province of Nova Scotia to improvements to their facility. In addition, the Association applied for and received a Community Grant from HRM in 2005-06, receiving a capital grant of \$25,000 and on appeal a further \$25,000 for a total grant of \$50,000.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct budget implications as a result of the material discussed herein.

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

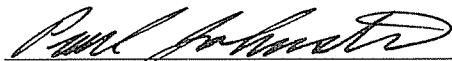
There are no recommended alternatives

ATTACHMENTS

None

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/cagenda.html> then choose the appropriate meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

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