



PO Box 1749  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
B3J 3A5 Canada

**Halifax Regional Council**  
**April 4, 2006**

**TO:** Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

**SUBMITTED BY:** Carol Macomber  
Carol Macomber, Acting Director of Recreation, Tourism and Culture

**DATE:** March 27, 2006

**SUBJECT:** Bloomfield Centre

**INFORMATION REPORT**

**ORIGIN**

- Councillor Murphy submitted a petition on behalf of approximately 628 residents supporting the continuation of programs for seniors and persons with disabilities being offered at Bloomfield Centre. Halifax Regional Council meeting, March 1/2005, Item 9.2.1
- Staff update on the Bloomfield Rationalization Process

**BACKGROUND**

In January 2004, an interdepartmental staff team consisting of RTC, RPAM, and Finance, was tasked with conducting a review of the Bloomfield Centre. The first phase involved a review of the facility, operating and financial summary, a historical overview, a review of tenants and user groups, and a report with recommendations to the Program and Services Review Committee of Council.

The Bloomfield Review was necessitated due to: (a) chronic under-capitalization, (b) shifting organizational priorities, (c) risk management and (d) efforts to align capacity with HRM's mandate in program and service delivery.

## **DISCUSSION**

In conducting the historical overview during the first phase of the review, it became clear that the rationale for retaining the Bloomfield site property in 1985 was the provision of recreation programs for seniors. It appears that with the subsequent influx of social service providers in 1991, the site's mandate was extended to include social services support mandates and programming for persons with disabilities, including mental health consumers. This expansion was in keeping with the municipal mandate at the time (pre-amalgamation), as the jurisdictional mandates of municipalities included social services.

The second phase of the review began in September 2005. During this phase, staff assessed the condition of the buildings and associated capital costs, green space provision on the Peninsula and future opportunities, heritage implications, other community facilities and services provided in the area, and demographic data. Also included in the review was an assessment of opportunities for linkages and connections to other corporate initiatives (i.e. the Immigration Strategy and the draft Cultural Policy).

In addition, staff have held several community meetings and individual focus groups. Community consultation was integral to the process and will continue to be paramount in this exciting community project.

At completion of the second phase, staff prepared a report with a summary of findings and program and space requirements. RPAM will develop options for staff to take back to the public for further input. General themes that emerged include an emphasis on culture, community based recreation programs, design excellence, landscape architectural plans and opportunities for heritage, social gatherings, seniors, volunteerism and programming for persons with disabilities.

Phase III is planned to assess the options with a final report and recommendation coming back to Regional Council in May 2006.

## **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**

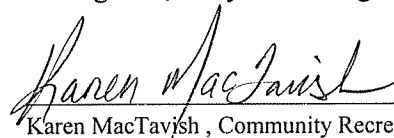
There are no recommended alternatives.

**ATTACHMENTS**

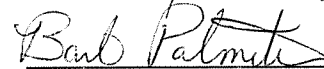
None

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.

Report Prepared by :



Karen MacTavish, Community Recreation Services, 490-4734



Financial Review :

Barb Palmeto, Financial Consultant, 490-7221