

**HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY**

---

**HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
MINUTES  
June 29, 2004**

**PRESENT:**

Mayor Peter J. Kelly  
Councillors: Krista Snow  
David Hendsbee  
Harry McInroy (2:58 pm)  
Brian Warshick  
Condo Sarto  
Bruce Hetherington (2:59 pm)  
John Cunningham (2:56 pm)  
Jerry Blumenthal  
Dawn Sloane (3:10 pm)  
Sue Uteck  
Sheila Fougere (2:56 pm)  
Russell Walker  
Debbie Hum  
Linda Mosher  
Brad Johns  
Robert Harvey  
Len Goucher  
Gary Meade

**REGRETS:**

Deputy Mayor Streach  
Councillors: Ron Cooper  
Jim Smith  
Steve Adams  
Reg Rankin

**STAFF:**

Mr. George McLellan, Chief Administrative Officer  
Mr. Wayne Anstey, Municipal Solicitor  
Ms. Chris Newson, Legislative Assistant  
Ms. Jan Gibson, Acting Municipality Clerk

**Table of Contents**

1.	CALL TO ORDER .....	3
2.	APPROVAL OF MINUTES - June 22, 2004 .....	3
3.	APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS .....	3
4.	INDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES MASTER PLAN .....	3
5.	ADJOURNMENT .....	5

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Kelly called the meeting to order at 2:50 p.m.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - June 22, 2004**

**MOVED by Councillor Warshick, seconded by Councillor Goucher, that the minutes of June 22, 2004 be approved as circulated. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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

**MOVED by Councillor Blumenthal, seconded by Councillor Meade that the Order of Business and Additions and Deletions be approved as circulated. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**4. INDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES MASTER PLAN**

- A report dated June 2004 was before Council.

Mr. Lew Rogers, Director, Recreation, Tourism and Culture, introduced Mr. Bob Nauss, Regional Coordinator, RTC and Chair of the Steering Committee with Ms. Betty Lou Killen, IRF Master Plan Steering Committee Member who jointly presented the report.

Council raised the following points during the ensuing discussion:

- This will be a one to three year process in order to complete the community consultation, needs assessment, find essential partnerships, possible need for other revenue for major projects.
- Possibility of area rates to assist with funding. The area rates would have to be approved by the Community Councils.
- Access to the schools was an important piece of the research and HRM's Recreation, Tourism and Culture will be scheduling recreational use of the schools which should ensure that appropriate groups have recreation time.
- There will be a service exchange agreement between HRSB (Halifax Regional Schoolboard) and HRM regarding caretakers opening/locking the school buildings.
- Concern expressed regarding possible closure of two north end Halifax facilities. There is good transit in this area and you should not take facilities away from the peninsula. Staff advised there will be a process review which will separate out municipally mandated programs and ensure that community recreation still takes place in the community.

- The decisions have yet to be made by Council regarding specific facilities. Council has to prioritize what will happen next as there are many projects coming forward. Caution in encouraging too much until we determine what we are going to be able to do. Council is looking at opportunities in light of how they work with existing facilities and this report will help us to see what the impact will be on other facilities.
- Area rates have to be looked at in the downtown core of Halifax and Dartmouth as well as they seem to be accepted in the county but not downtown.
- Staff encouraged to look at universal access and affordability as many residents are unable to afford local recreation fees.
- If we are one municipality then why do we have three tax rates (urban, suburban and rural). The downtown core pays higher taxes and perhaps that is why there are no area rates. There is not one multi-use facility in the peninsula yet we pay very high taxes.
- Dartmouth East also has no facilities.
- **Councillor Warshick suggested a letter be sent to Prime Minister Martin requesting more money be placed in infrastructure program.**
- Great to have this report in front of us for future budget discussion as we have to look at capital contributions. Many facilities cannot fully achieve cost recovery as they are not able to provide all activities/access to all groups and there should be protection for community groups perhaps through management agreements as they are doing a job for HRM.
- We need to do some land banking now for future facility sites before real estate prices go up.
- Good to see there will be better access to schools. Perhaps HRM should consider a similar relationship with the HRSB as they have with the library board.
- HRM cannot afford to do everything and there is a tremendous amount of focus on recreation. We will have to say no or limit our involvement in some things as we cannot do it all. It will involve tough decisions.
- **Councillor Sloane requested staff research the possibility of creating a recreational reserve in which a percentage of land sales or a small percentage on developments instead of the green spaces be put toward recreation facilities.** Mayor Kelly commented the current Provincial legislation does not permit this but the request can be explored by staff in discussions with the Province.
- Suggest the QEH (Queen Elizabeth High School) site be considered as an indoor recreation facility for all residents of HRM. We have to consider partnerships in the future as our resources are tight. Concern is to access with the schools but we also need to negotiate with the universities to have public access as we should be partnering with existing infrastructure rather than recreating infrastructure.
- Possibility of privately built facilities being leased back to HRM to save us capital / maintenance etc. If a third party could help with need then we should explore all aspects.
- **Councillor Hendsbee requested a copy of the Burke/Oliver report that was**

done regarding arenas across HRM.

**MOVED by Councillor Harvey, seconded by Councillor Warshick that Regional Council approve in principle the Indoor Recreation Facility Master Plan dated June 2004.**

Councillor Walker commented that on page 97 of the report, reference is made to information on page 6 but that information is not included in the document. Ms. Killen commented page 6 referred to a separate document that was not attached to the report but will be circulated to Council.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**5. ADJOURNMENT**

Adjourned at 4:50 pm.

Jan Gibson  
Acting Municipal Clerk