

**HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY**

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**HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
MINUTES  
MARCH 3, 2005  
(afternoon session)**

**PRESENT:**

Mayor Peter J. Kelly  
Deputy Mayor Goucher  
Councillors: Steve Streach  
Krista Snow  
David Hendsbee  
Harry McInroy  
Gloria McCluskey  
Andrew Younger  
Bill Karsten  
Becky Kent  
Mary Wile  
Patrick Murphy  
Sue Uteck  
Stephen D. Adams  
Russell Walker  
Debbie Hum  
Linda Mosher  
Brad Johns  
Robert P. Harvey  
Reg Rankin  
Gary Meade

**REGRETS:**

Councillors: Jim Smith  
Dawn Sloane  
Sheila Fougere

**STAFF:**

Mr. Dan English, Acting Chief Administrative Officer  
Ms. Jan Gibson, Municipal Clerk  
Ms. Patti Halliday, Legislative Assistant

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The meeting reconvened at 1:10 p.m.

3. **BUDGET DELIBERATIONS (cont'd)**

**Recreation, Tourism and Culture**

Mr. Bob Nauss, Acting Director, Recreation, Tourism and Culture, presented the budget to Council.

Councillor Mosher stated it was her understanding that the new gymnasium on the Peninsula was to be considered during the budget deliberations, but not be a part of the budget. She suggested this item should be moved into the parking lot.

**MOVED by Councillor Mosher, seconded by Councillor Streach, that Council move \$900,000 into the parking lot for discussion of the peninsular gym. MOTION PUT AND DEFEATED.**

**MOVED by Councillor Meade, seconded by Councillor Rankin, that staff continue discussions with the appropriate parties regarding the Sir John A. Macdonald High School gymnasium expansion and report to Council in a timely manner. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Councillor Hendsbee requested an additional \$25,000 for community developers be moved into the parking lot. In response, Mr. Mike Labrecque, stated a group of staff have been undertaking a review of the approximate 35 community facilities, and it is intended to bring a report back to Council within three months with some recommendations on how the various relationships will be managed going forward. Based on Mr. Labrecque's comments, Councillor Hendsbee withdrew his request at this time.

Councillor Streach suggested a more concentrated effort needs to be put on the Halifax County Exhibition, as it is the only municipal one left in HRM. The Councillor also expressed concern regarding the funding for Summerfest.

**MOVED by Councillor Streach, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee, that an increase in funding for Summerfest of \$15,000 be put into the parking lot to bring it to the level it was at amalgamation and that consideration be given to long term funding for the Halifax County Exhibition. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Councillor Kent requested that staff revisit the master plan for the Eastern Passage/Shearwater area with respect to recreation facility needs as the Shearwater

recreation centre is mainly for use by military families and only provides for 50 public memberships. It was also requested that this be reflected in future budgets.

Councillor McCluskey inquired about the status of an agreement with Evergreen House, and Mr. Nauss agreed to look into this for the Councillor.

In response to concerns expressed by Councillor McCluskey, staff agreed to look into the possibility of allocating any revenue from the lease of the old Dartmouth Museum building towards a new museum location and report back to Council

Responding to questions of Councillor Murphy regarding Destination Halifax, staff agreed to provide information to Council in the next day or two regarding the Destination Halifax business plan and budget. Mr. English stated it is staff's intention to come back to Council with a proposal to increase the rate to 2 percent with the extra .5 percent being placed into a capital reserve for future public facilities.

Councillor Harvey stated he hopes the forthcoming cultural policy will create a municipal cultural centre, including a museum, to display artifacts from across HRM.

A discussion ensued regarding the budget deliberation process.

**MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Deputy Mayor Goucher, that Committee meet on Friday to continue budget deliberations, recessing at noon, and reconvening on Tuesday, March 8, 2005 at 9:30 a.m. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

### **Real Property and Asset Management Services**

Mr. Mike Labrecque, outgoing Director, presented the Real Property and Asset Management Services budget. Mr. Peter Bigelow, Real Property Planning, provided an update on post-Juan work.

Responding to questions regarding the artificial sports field in Dartmouth, Mr. Labrecque indicated it will be located on Commodore Drive in the Burnside Industrial Park and is anticipated to be open in June 2006.

Councillor McCluskey inquired about the status of Dillman Park and if there were any plans for improvements this year. In response, Mr. Bigelow stated a study was conducted in conjunction with the Capital District for the renewal of Dillman Park and further enhancements of the gardens.

(Councillor McCluskey left the meeting at 2:50 p.m.)

Councillor Meade requested that the funding allocated for two playgrounds in District 23 (\$25,000 and \$15,000) be changed to \$20,000 each. Staff agreed to the Councillor's request.

In response to comments of Councillor Streach regarding the significant percentage of snowmobile and ATV users of recreational trails, it was agreed that staff would explore opportunities in future budgets for snowmobile and ATV use of recreational trails directly with the affected Councillors.

With respect to buses, Councillor Streach stated if there is only one going to the rural areas, it needs to be accessible.

In response to questions of Councillor Hendsbee regarding HRM providing insurance for trails groups, Mr. McLellan stated this is not what HRM normally does, and the implications would need to be seriously considered.

Councillor Mosher expressed concern regarding the deterioration of the assets in Sir Sanford Fleming Park, in particular the seawall.

**MOVED by Councillor Mosher, seconded by Councillor Hum, that \$90,000 for the restoration of the seawall and paving of the parking lot of the Sir Sanford Fleming Park, potentially coming from the funding allocation for the phased winter sidewalk snow removal, be put in the parking lot. MOTION PUT AND PASSED..**

Responding to a question of Councillor Murphy, staff agreed to advise Council on Friday of the amount currently in the cemetery reserve.

**2. RECESS**

It was agreed to recess at this time and reconvene at 9:30 a.m. tomorrow.

Jan Gibson  
Municipal Clerk

