

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

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HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES

August 9, 2011

PRESENT:

Mayor Peter Kelly  
Deputy Mayor Brad Johns  
Councillors: Steve Streach  
Barry Dalrymple  
David Hendsbee  
Lorelei Nicoll  
Gloria McCluskey  
Darren Fisher  
Bill Karsten  
Jackie Barkhouse  
Jim Smith  
Mary Wile  
Dawn Sloane  
Sue Uteck  
Jennifer Watts  
Russell Walker  
Debbie Hum  
Linda Mosher  
Stephen Adams  
Tim Outhit  
Reg Rankin  
Peter Lund

REGRETS:

Councillors: Jerry Blumenthal  
Robert Harvey

STAFF:

Mr. Richard Butts, Chief Administrative Officer  
Ms. Mary Ellen Donovan, Municipal Solicitor  
Ms. Sherryl Murphy, Acting Municipal Clerk  
Ms. Jennifer Weagle, Legislative Assistant

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Kelly called the meeting to order at 1:08 p.m.

**2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – None**

**3. HRM STADIUM ANALYSIS – PHASE 1 FINAL REPORT (continuation from August 2, 2011)**

The following information was before Council:

- A report from the HRM Stadium Analysis Steering Committee dated July 18, 2011
- A staff report dated July 18, 2011
- Copy of presentation re: Stadium Analysis – 3 Phased Approach Phase 1 Recap
- Email submissions from members of the public re: Stadium

The following motion was on the floor from the August 2, 2011 Committee of the Whole session:

**MOVED by Councillor Sloane, seconded by Deputy Mayor Smith that Halifax Regional Council:**

- 1. Approve in principle the recommend directions outlined in the Final Report – Phase 1 Stadium Analysis: Halifax Stadium – Business Plan (Attachment 2 of the staff report dated July 18, 2011);**
- 2. Direct staff to proceed to Phase 2 Stadium Analysis: Site Selection and Preliminary Design;**
- 3. Approve an increase to project CBX01363 in the amount of \$275,000 (net HST included) for Phase 2, with funding from the Strategic Growth Reserve, Q126, as outlined in the Budget Implications section of the staff report dated July 18, 2011; and**
- 4. Return to Regional Council by the end of September for capital affordability and financing options discussion.**

The Mayor resumed with the speaker's list from August 2, 2011.

Responding to an inquiry from Councillor Hum, Ms. Betty Lou Killen, Coordinator, Client Services, Community Development, advised that HRM currently has three tracks in the inventory, and as a part of the business plan, the proposed stadium may not include a track. Mr. Jonathon Hack, Sierra Planning & Management, added that there are constraints to having a track in a stadium, such as it is not ideal for week in, week out spectator events. He suggested that there needs to be further high level discussions on the facility needs.

Councillors Streach and Mosher arrived at 1:14 p.m. and Councillor Lund arrived at 1:16 pm.

Councillor Karsten advised that he would like more detail on whether HRM is able to afford a stadium and noted for the record that as this moves forward, should the funding partnerships not be there, he will not be supporting moving forward with the stadium.

Discussion ensued, with the following comments from members of Council:

- Concern whether HRM can afford a stadium;
- The proposed stadium should have a flexible design to be able to add seats in the future;
- Other government partners should contribute to the Phase 2 Analysis costs.

Councillor Hendsbee arrived at 1:28 p.m.

With the agreement of the mover and seconder, the third part of the motion was amended as follows:

- 3. Approve an increase to project CBX01363 in the amount of \$275,000 (net HST included) for Phase 2, with funding from the Strategic Growth Reserve, Q126, as outlined in the Budget Implications section of the staff report dated July 18, 2011 and continue to seek out other funding partners.**

Discussion continued, with the following comments from members of Council:

- A suggestion that universities and private business also be sought for partnership opportunities;
- In what context would Council be able to afford this – other projects or programs would have to be denied to pay for the stadium;
- Current funds are tied up in maintaining HRM's existing facilities;
- Council should focus on benefiting healthy, active lifestyles before benefiting spectators of sporting events;
- Concern with Council making a decision within the constraints of the FIFA bid;
- Council previously voted to pursue the FIFA bid with the knowledge that a stadium would be required;
- The importance of flexibility of design so that any event or tenant could be accommodated, to take advantage of growing sport tourism opportunities;
- Request that staff take into consideration the recreational and programming needs of HRM.

At the request of Councillor Lund, Ms. Killen clarified that there are two events associated with FIFA – the Women's World Cup 2015 which is the primary event, and the Under 20 Women's World Cup, a smaller event which would be held in 2014 and

would be used as a test event. She confirmed that from a technical perspective, the artificial turf being proposed is appropriate for the events.

Discussion ensued, with the following comments from members of Council:

- Council should focus funding on existing infrastructure maintenance and repairs;
- The Phase 2 analysis will provide Council with the information needed to make a final decision on this matter one way or the other;
- Some members have been hearing support for a multi-purpose sport facility;
- The cultural community needs facilities and programs in order to fulfill the Cultural Plan.

At the request of Councillor Lund, Ms. Killen advised that stakeholder discussions will take place as a part of the Phase 2 analysis, as well as examination and evaluation of all potential sites. She noted that the recent Women's World Cup held in Germany was broadcast to over 200 countries.

At the request of Councillor Watts, Mr. Grant MacDonald, Events Nova Scotia, advised that if HRM were to host one pool of the 2015 Women's World Cup, that would represent seven games. As for the Under 20 Women's World Cup in 2014, the number of games is unknown since they are unsure of the number of countries participating. Mr. MacDonald also clarified that it is premature to speculate where the opening and closing ceremonies would be held.

**MOVED by Councillor Sloane, seconded by Deputy Mayor Smith that Halifax Regional Council:**

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- 4. Return to Regional Council by the end of September for capital affordability and financing options discussion.**

**AMENDED MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

#### **4. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:01 p.m.

Cathy J. Mellett  
Municipal Clerk