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Chebucto Community Council
June 1, 2009

TO: Chair and members of Chebucto Community Council

SUBMITTED BY:



Paul Dunphy, Director, Community Development

DATE: May 1, 2009

SUBJECT: Cunard Beach Volleyball Court Policies

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

- Motion of Chebucto Community Council - March 2, 2009 (Item 12.1)

MOVED BY Councillor Mosher, seconded by Councillor Adams, that Chebucto Community Council request a staff report regarding:

1. The feasibility of having a written policy and signage posted at the Cunard Beach Volleyball Court stating that J.L. Isely High School and Cunard Junior High School have priority over the court during school hours and that at all other times the court would be available to the community on a first come, first serve basis for half hour increments; and
2. That the court not be rented out.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

BACKGROUND

The Cunard Beach Volleyball Court was built with funding from HRM (Councillors Mosher and Councillor Adams) and Cunard Jr. High School with additional funding from the Province of Nova Scotia. The Cunard Beach Volleyball Court opened for community play in the spring of 2008 with a Grand Opening held in the Fall of the same year.

The Cunard Beach Volleyball Court (CBVC) is currently used on a first come first served basis with no cost to the community for use.

The CBVC was used for play in 2008 by:

- Cunard Junior High School in the Spring and Fall
- HRM Recreation in July to mid August, provided a Volleyball program two (2) days a week from 4-5:30 pm for a six (6) week period

The mandate of the HRM Facility Scheduling division is to ensure fair, equitable and organized use of HRM facilities. By scheduling a facility, this division can provide statistical information on hours of use which can help establish an internal process for other business units re: requirements for regular upkeep, maintenance, capital upgrades and to track trends in participation.

To date in 2009, HRM Facility Scheduling has only received one formal request to schedule the Cunard Beach Volleyball Court.

DISCUSSION

Public sport property such as the CBVC should follow the same booking criteria/procedure as all other outdoor sport booking protocols and therefore rentals be allowed at the CBVC. HRM Facility Scheduling should organize and schedule the Cunard Beach Volleyball Court (as they do with others) by working with HRM Recreation programming staff, the Cunard Jr. High School, JL Ilesley High School and any formal group looking to use this unique beach volleyball court. "Formal use" means use by organized groups, leagues, clubs and associations. As formal requests for these type of sites are so infrequent, HRM follows standardized processes that have been utilized for several years. The scheduling division can then ensure all processes and procedures around facility bookings ie; fees, weather cancellations, tournament use, etc. will be followed. There has never been a requirement for written policy around court use.

In addition, Council formally adopted the "Facility User Fee Schedule" in 1999, which mandated HRM Facility Scheduling to book and charge nominal fees for all formal use of all HRM facilities. (Attachment #1). Currently, minor fees are 4.50 per hour and adult fees are \$9.00 per hour for court play. If Chebucto Community Council wishes to restrict rentals on this property, the decision would be non-compliant with the principles set out in the Facility User Fee Schedule.

Schools have priority access to all facilities on School property during school hours in accordance to the Service Exchange Agreement between the Halifax Regional School Board and the HRM. Members of the community are encouraged to use all facilities whenever possible at no charge. Many of the HRM Facility outdoor sites receive a great deal of free incidental un-scheduled usage by the community. The formal use of the Cunard Beach Volleyball Court could be limited to 1-2 nights per week, with a maximum of two - three consecutive hours of use at one time to ensure equity and maximum usage. This solution has more "control" and since requests are so infrequent, will not disrupt public play. If Chebucto Community Council wishes this alternative, facility scheduling staff can set up the schedule accordingly.

A general sign could be posted on site indicating that the Schools have priority access to the Cunard Beach Volleyball Court during school hours and that all formal use must be booked through Facility Scheduling @ 490-7100.

Play signage would be the responsibility of the group using the court to ensure that the community knows when the court is not available to them. This would include any outside school hour use by the schools, any HRM Recreation programming use and any formal use by a club, group or organization. Currently, Facility Scheduling requires signage to be posted two days prior to play and this is the requirement for all other sport user groups on other HRM properties as well.

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.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

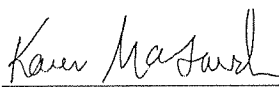
None

ATTACHMENTS

1. Facility User Fee Schedule

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/agenda.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: Debra MacKenzie, Sport and Safety Services Manager, Community Development, 4904216

Report Approved by: 
Karen MacTavish, General Manager, Community Development, 490-4734

**2009 FEE SCHEDULE
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - FACILITY SCHEDULING**

SPORT FIELDS / TRACK / SPORT COURTS

SPORT FIELDS	FEE (HST included)		SPORT FIELDS	FEE (HST included)	
CLASS	Adult	Minor	CLASS	Adult	Minor
A	\$9 00/hour	\$ 4 50/hour	C	\$7 00/hour	\$ 3 50/hour
B	\$8 00/hour	\$ 4 00/hour	D	No charge	No Charge
PRACTICE	Adult/Minor				
Practice Time	Regular Rates as shown above		Practices will only be scheduled after all Season Game schedules have been booked Games take priority over practices.		
TRACKS	Adult/Minor (HST included)				
Metropolitan (Sackville) or Beazley (Dartmouth)	\$10 00/hour \$86 00/day				
SPECIAL SPORTING EVENTS/ TOURNAMENTS	FEE (HST included) Adult		FEE (HST included) Minor		
Sport Fields	\$86 00/facility/day		\$28 00/facility/day		
EVENTS	FEE (HST included)				
Multipurpose / Lacrosse / Ball Hockey Courts	Adults \$9 00/hr Minor \$4 50/hr		<i>**Tournament Rates Apply**</i>		
Tennis/Basketball Courts	6 courts = \$143 75/day + \$10 00 app fee 3 courts = \$ 57 50/day + \$10 00 app fee 1 court = \$ 28 75/day + \$10 00 app fee				
Beer Tents	\$115 00/event + other applicable fees				
Filming. Commercial Nonprofit/Low Budget	\$150 00/day \$ 75 00/day				
Events requiring electrical	\$10 00/day				
APPLICATION FEE					
Application Fee	\$10 00 NON-REFUNDABLE processing fee per application				
LIGHTS					
Light Usage Fee	\$15 00/hour All Sites				
Keys					
Sign Out Fee	\$25.00 per key				

****It is important to note: Once time is booked and confirmed, payment must be made in full by VISA, MasterCard, American Express, debit card, cheque or cash prior to signing the Facility Rental Contract. Under certain circumstances, the option of a payment plan may be available. Payment Procedures are set forth by the HRM Facility Scheduling Office and will be strictly enforced.**