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Info Item No. 2
Harbour East – Marine Drive Community Council
July 30, 2015

TO: Mayor Savage and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY: *Original signed*

Brad Anguish, Director Parks & Recreation

DATE: July 13, 2015

SUBJECT: Petition – Decommission Sunrise Beach, Shubie Park

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

This report originates from the February 5, 2015, Harbour East - Marine Drive Community Council meeting. Councillor Fisher submitted a petition with 23 signatures requesting Sunrise Beach, Shubie Park be decommissioned.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

- *Halifax Regional Municipality Charter*, Chapter 39: Section 188 [Power to make by-laws] (2): Without restricting the generality of subsection (1) but subject to Part VIII, the Council may, in any by-law (a) regulate or prohibit; (b) regulate any development, activity, industry, business, animal or thing in different ways, divide each of them into classes and deal with each class in different ways; Section 193 [Dog By-Law] (1): Without limiting the generality of Section 188, the Council may make by-laws (a) regulating the running at large of dogs, including permitting the running at large of dogs in certain places or at certain times;
- *By-Law A-300 Respecting Animals and Responsible Pet Ownership*
- *By-Law P-600 Respecting Municipal Parks*

BACKGROUND

At the February 5, 2015 Harbour East – Marine Drive Community Council meeting, Councillor Fisher submitted a petition containing 23 signatures requesting the off-leash dog area known as Sunrise Beach, Shubie Park be decommissioned. Specifically, the petition referenced the beach area along the Shubenacadie Canal past the footbridge to the roadway that is another entrance to the park off of Locks Road.

DISCUSSION

The Off-Leash Strategy approved by Halifax Regional Council in 2007 provides for off-leash areas to be situated in parks which are either seasonally underutilized and where conflicts with other park users (i.e., those without dogs) are anticipated to be minimal. Sunrise Beach in Shubenacadie Park was designated as an off leash area under the Off Leash Strategy approved by Council in 2007.

On June 24, 2014, Regional Council directed that staff review the existing Off-Leash Strategy. In particular, Regional Council directed that staff undertake a review of the program and service levels for off-leash facilities to assess requirements, management and programming costs, including the establishment of fenced off-leash dog parks.

The information included in the petition will be incorporated in the review of the Off-Leash Strategy which is underway. It is anticipated that the report resulting from this review will be tabled with the Community Planning & Economic Development Standing Committee in the fall of 2015.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

An on-line survey which garnered 2,178 responses has been completed as part of the review of the Off Leash Strategy.

Staff met with representatives of the community who signed the petition, on site, to understand the issues. Staff is currently conducting an examination of site specific issues which have been raised.

ATTACHMENTS

None

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/cagenda.php> then choose the appropriate meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210, or Fax 902.490.4208.

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