



P.O. Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3A5 Canada

Item No. 1
Halifax and West Community Council
August 6, 2014

TO: Chair and Members of Halifax and West Community Council
Original Signed

SUBMITTED BY: _____
Jane Fraser, Director Planning & Infrastructure

DATE: July 18, 2014

SUBJECT: Consideration of Regatta Point for an Off Leash Dog Park

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

June 26, 2014, motion of Halifax and West Community Council to request that staff initiate public consultation for consideration of Regatta Point for an off leash dog park.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

By-Law A-300 Respecting Animals & Responsible Pet Ownership the “Animal By-Law” Section 7 (2) (d).

Halifax Regional Municipality Off Leash Parks Strategy adopted 2007.

BACKGROUND

The HRM Off-Leash Parks Strategy, adopted in 2007, allows for the consideration and development of off-leash dog areas in municipal parks. Currently there are seven permanent off leash facilities and thirty five seasonally restricted off leash facilities within Halifax municipal parks. Recent discussion around re-locating the service from Africville Park and the type of off-leash facility has raised some questions around Halifax’s off leash area service levels.

DISCUSSION

At the June 24, 2014, session of Regional Council item 11.1.16 Decommissioning of Africville Off Leash Dog Park, the following motion was passed; 2) Approve staff to undertake a review of the program and service levels for off leash facilities to assess requirements, management and programming costs.

That review is expected to be ready for the consideration of Standing Committee of Council in December.

Staff recommend that the request for a dog park at Regatta Point be deferred until the Council requested program and service review is completed. The program and service review will identify successes and gaps as well as recommend required solutions. Staff will be considering requirements for additional off leash facilities and will identify the potential for Regatta Point as an additional off leash area within that process.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications at this time. The review of program and service levels will identify probability of costs if there are found to be any service gaps.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The approved 2007 Off Leash Strategy outlines a process involving public engagement in the creation of any new off leash areas. Any potential Regatta Point proposal for off leash areas would be subject to that process.

ATTACHMENTS

None

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/commcoun/index.php> then choose the appropriate Community Council and meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

Report Prepared by: Peter Bigelow, Manager, Public Lands Planning, 490-6047
Original Signed

Report Approved by: _____
Peter Stickings, Manager, Real Estate and Land Management 490-7129
