

HALIFAX

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Item No.
**Community Planning & Economic
Development Standing Committee**
September 11, 2014

TO: Chair and Members of Community Planning & Economic Development Standing Committee

SUBMITTED BY: Original Signed by

Brad Anguish, Director, Community & Recreation Services

DATE: August 5, 2014

SUBJECT: Tennis Canada Proposal Update

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

July 5, 2011 Halifax Regional Council:

MOVED by Councillor Outhit, seconded by Councillor Sloane that Halifax Regional Council direct staff to:

1. Meet with Tennis Canada and Tennis Nova Scotia officials to determine the public requirements for Tennis Facilities in HRM and how those might be accomplished; and
2. Provide a report to Council for discussion.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

- *Halifax Regional Municipality Charter*, Section 79(1) including
 - (k) recreational programs; and
 - (x) lands and buildings required for a municipal purpose
- Community Facility Master Plan approved by Regional Council on May 27, 2008

BACKGROUND

In 2011, Tennis Canada and Tennis Nova Scotia submitted a proposal to HRM to partner on an indoor tennis facility. The proposal outlined that the facility would operate as a not-for-profit entity and would help grow both recreational and high performance tennis programs in the municipality.

The original proposal included a request for capital funding from HRM as well as land considerations (long term lease, tax exemptions, etc.). The proposal also outlined a need for funding from other levels of government.

DISCUSSION

On June 24, 2014, Regional Council approved funding to support a bid for the Davis Cup to be held in HRM. As a result, Tennis Canada announced that the event will be held at the Halifax Metro Centre on September 12-14th. With this announcement, there is renewed interest in tennis in HRM. As a result, this report provides an update on the consideration of the proposal for a new indoor tennis facility.

With the recent opening of the Daniel Nestor Tennis Centre in Bedford, HRM currently has 6 year round permanent indoor courts. These along with 82 outdoor courts provide opportunities for recreation and competitive tennis programming. Further, HRM's Northcliffe tennis courts are enclosed with a bubble for the winter months providing additional temporary indoor courts. The Tennis Canada Proposal would create an additional ten (10) courts, with eight (8) of those courts covered for year round use.

HRM staff, along with staff from the Province of Nova Scotia and Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, reviewed the proposal and met with Tennis Canada and Tennis Nova Scotia representatives to discuss various aspects of the request. Similar concerns and questions were raised by all three levels of government and, as a result, a tri-level committee was struck to work with Tennis Canada and Tennis Nova Scotia to consider the proposal.

One of the key aspects to be addressed relates to the recently opened Daniel Nestor Tennis Centre (DNTC) in Bedford. Tennis Canada's proposal for a new not-for-profit facility was submitted at roughly the same time as the new centre was opening. As a result, the impact and relationship between the two facilities needs to be clearly defined. Tennis Canada and Tennis Nova Scotia are working with the DNTC on this aspect in order to update their request to HRM and the other levels of government.

The need for a clear relationship between the proposed facility and the DNTC relate to the fact that Tennis Canada has supported the establishment of the DNTC and its success is important for the facility and tennis community as well as Tennis Canada, Tennis Nova Scotia and HRM. While HRM has benefited from private indoor tennis facilities in the past, none of the facilities have achieved long term sustainability. Therefore, an understanding of the past challenges with the sustainability of indoor private sector facilities in HRM is an important aspect of the analysis. As a result, all three levels of government are working collaboratively to ensure that the previous impediments to the sustainability of the indoor facilities are both well understood and able to be mitigated to the extent possible.

As of July 29, 2014, staff has been advised that Tennis Canada and Tennis Nova Scotia are working on the refinement of their proposal and are engaging in necessary discussions with all relevant parties. Once a revised proposal is provided, all three levels of government will be in a position to proceed with necessary review and consideration.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

None required.

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.

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