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Item No.
Community Planning & Economic Development Standing Committee
November 13, 2014

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

SUBMITTED BY: Original Signed by:

Brad Anguish, Director, Parks & Recreation

DATE: October 15, 2015

SUBJECT: Beazley Sports Complex

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

November 19, 2013 motion of Halifax Regional Council:

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Fisher, seconded by Councillor McCluskey, that Halifax Regional Council request a staff report on initiating a master plan for the Beazley Sports Complex to outline planned and needed improvements to the facilities and to investigate any needed land acquisitions.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Halifax Regional Municipality Charter, Section 79 (1); The Council may expend money required by the Municipality on (k) Recreation programs, (x) lands and buildings required for a municipal purpose.

BACKGROUND

The Beazley Complex is a sports complex located on Caledonia Road, Dartmouth. The site is a regional venue that consists of three baseball diamonds, one sport field, one skateboard track, one basketball pad and one track which is used to host tournaments and events. The number of hours of usage ranges from 200 per year for the track to 700 per year for Big Beazley Ball Diamond. The specific components include:

- Big Beazley Ball Diamond (lighted) is one of four (4) AA diamonds in HRM and is used to host Intermediate, Junior and Senior level baseball;
- Kinsmen Ball Diamond – a 'B field' and used for Minor/Bantam level play;
- Little Beazley Diamond – a 'B field' and also used for Minor/Mosquito level play;
- Beazley Track is one of two track facilities in HRM and is regularly used as the competition track.

The complex shares a parking lot with the East Dartmouth Community Centre which allows for a recreation campus offering opportunities for both competitive and community programming at the one location. However, due to the heavy usage of both sites, parking can be a challenge at the site during events and tournaments. Further, the current state of the bleachers at the complex has caused concerns and, as a result, funding was included in the 2014/15 capital budget for their demolition, in preparation of the design and installation of new bleachers. In addition, funding was allocated for replacement of the score clock which was recently completed.

The demolition of the existing bleachers, along with regular maintenance requirements for the fields and the need for improvements to parking, provide an opportunity to undertake comprehensive improvements to the site. As a result, Regional Council passed a motion requesting a master plan for the planned and needed improvements at the site. In addition, staff was asked to investigate any needed land acquisition.

DISCUSSION

The components at the Beazley Sports Complex are at a point in their life cycle that capital upgrading and replacement is required. As a result, required life cycle work includes:

Track & Field

- Replace existing grandstand seating.
- Long jump and shot putt upgrades.
- Fence and stairwell work.

Big Beazley

- Upgrade current lighting to meet standards.
- Replace fencing.
- Additional netting to prevent foul balls going onto track area.
- Sound system to reduce transfer of sound from the site to the adjacent neighbourhood.

Skate Park

- New smooth surface as well new ramps/jumps.
- Perimeter repairs.

Miscellaneous

- Perimeter fencing separating the Beazley Complex from adjacent properties.
- New Flag Poles and Flag Pole Stands.

Upon approval of the funding for the project, staff will undertake a site plan which will outline all of the work to be done, the phasing to complete the work in a manner that limits the impact to user groups and ensures the most cost effective approach to construction as well as any changes to site layout. A full

master plan is not required in this situation as the required capital work is currently known and a site plan can confirm the capital funding requirements and appropriate phasing.

Parking

The Beazley Complex shares parking with the East Dartmouth Community Centre. Currently, there are approximately 92 parking stalls available for the recreation centre and the Beazley Sports Complex along with another 24 stalls related to the greenhouse operation adjacent to the parking lot. Complaints have been received during tournaments at the Beazley Complex, as the amount of parking on the site has created challenges for concurrent programming at the community centre. The challenges with parking are primarily experienced during track meets which occur in May and June of each year, as well as during occasional baseball tournaments. During these times, the amount vehicles accessing the site can be a nuisance for the surrounding community and can impact users of the community centre.

HRM currently owns the land adjacent to the site which houses HRM greenhouses. The greenhouses are relatively new and in good shape so removal of them from the site is not anticipated in the short term. However, potential reconfiguration of some aspects of the two sites may allow for additional parking to be provided. Further, HRM owns other land in close proximity to the site which may be useable for additional parking, during tournaments and other heavy usage times. Work on the site plan will include review of the current parking layout and options for placement of additional spaces on the adjacent lands. Therefore, no additional land acquisition is required at this time.

Funding for the work will be included in the 2015/16 and 2016/17 capital budgets, with the initial work focussing on the demolition of the old bleachers and completion of the site plan. Phase two of the work is further completion of the life cycle work listed above.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Feedback from user groups has been incorporated into work plan.

ATTACHMENTS

Not applicable

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/agenda.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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