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Harbour East Community Council
August 4, 2005

TO: Chairman and Members of the Harbour East Community Council

SUBMITTED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Stickings", written over a horizontal line.

Peter Stickings, Acting Director of Real Property & Asset Management

DATE: July 6, 2005

SUBJECT: Servicing Plan for athletic Fields in HECC and HRM

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

Request for a staff report originating from the Harbour East Community Council Meeting held on May 1, 2003.

BACKGROUND

A Servicing Plan was requested by the HECC in response to concerns raised by athletic field users who felt that the HRM athletic fields were showing signs of deterioration. Users raised concerns with turf quality, deterioration of infrastructure, and safety. These concerns were confirmed by client survey forms which were circulated to facility users.

DISCUSSION

Parks was restructured in 2003 and aligned with Real Property and Asset Management. An operational plan was formulated and introduced to the operation to improve efficiencies, provide staff training, purchase specialized equipment, and focus the workforce on the delivery of quality customer service.

An integral part of this plan was to out source grass cutting to allow for HRM forces to concentrate on infrastructure improvements and service delivery based on service standards and field classifications.

RPAM began to research and develop strategies to improve upon the quality of turf. In 2003 RPAM introduced a rehabilitation program partially funded through Capital. The improvement in the quality of turf on fields was very impressive. To date RPAM has rehabilitated 40 fields at a cost of \$5,000.00 per field. This is significantly less than budgeted cost of \$200,000. to re-sod a field.

The success of this program has had a direct, and positive impact on the current condition of sport fields. Fields assessed in the fall of 2004 indicate 48 as good, 36 as fair, and 20 as poor. This season we intend to rehabilitate another 25 of the fair and poor fields, while implementing sustainable turf maintenance programs on our good fields.

Meetings held with the soccer community in the fall of 2004 confirm the clients recognition of a steady improvement in field condition and service delivery. We will be meeting with HRM baseball clients in the fall of 2005 to encourage feed back on our efforts

As part of the ongoing improvement to our service delivery, RPAM's Sportsfield and Playground Division conducts regular facility inspections and assessments. From these assessments RPAM determines the Capital and Operational requirements to sustain and improve HRM sport facilities within the available resources

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

\$90,000 is transferred from the Capital Budget to the Operating Budget to purchase materials. (Internal staff will perform the labour).

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.

ALTERNATIVES

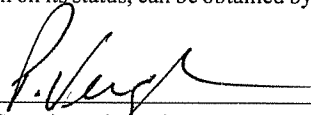
To discontinue the Program and spend substantial dollars on reconstructing athletic surfaces.

ATTACHMENTS

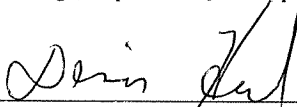
None

Additional copies of this report, and information on its status, can be obtained by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

Report Prepared by:


Peter Verge, Superintendent of Sportsfields, Playgrounds and Greenbelts 490-5819

Report Approved by:


Denis Huck, Manager of Real Property Operations 490-4673