

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY JUL 1 4 2010 5-4 MUNICIPAL CLERK

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July 14th, 2010

Councillor Gloria McCluskey, HRM District 5 Chair, Harbour East Community Council c/o City Clerks Office 1841 Argyle Street Halifax, NS B3J 3Y8

Re: DDBC Submission-Sculpture Park Dartmouth Waterfront

Dear Councillor McCluskey:

I am writing to you regarding the referenced proposal submitted by the DDBC on June 10, 2010 to HRM Real Property Planning, Mr. Peter Bigelow. The June 10 document was also provided to Mr. Andrew Whittemore for his information and for discussion purposes.

With a few minor amendments I am re-submitting this proposal *(see attached dated July 14th, 2010)* to the HECC for discussion and consideration at Community Council. I would be pleased to present a brief overview of this project to HECC if it is your wish.

Our Waterfront Park is devoid of daily use either by families or tourists due to its lack of amenities and overall appearance. The current structures are not conducive to regular visits by residents or visitors. The overall visual effects do not provide open and free access to our harbour views from the Dartmouth waterfront. A significant change is needed to encourage increased active use of the waterfront that will also encourage visitors to seek goods and services within our downtown business district.



It is important to note that this project is contingent upon public/private sector involvement in all aspects of its development thus relieving the taxpayer of many of the additional financial burdens normally associated with such a project. Creation therefore of a public/private citizens advisory committee may also be considered by HRM as part of the go forward process on this proposal.

It is the wish therefore of the DDBC that upon consideration of this proposal it would be approved in principle and forwarded to Regional Council for approval and consideration in program planning for the future development of our Dartmouth Waterfront Park.

Yours sincerely,

T. A. Olive, Executive Director, Downtown Dartmouth Business Commission

Attach: Dartmouth Sculpture Park, Discussion Paper

c.c. HRM, City Clerk



Downtown Dartmouth Business Commission

TO:	Councillor Gloria McCluskey, District 5 HRM Chair, Harbour East Community Council
SUBMITTED BY:	Tim Olive, Executive Director, DDBC
DATE:	July 14th, 2010
SUBJECT:	Dartmouth Waterfront Sculpture Park Alderney Drive, Dartmouth

ORIGIN

The Downtown Dartmouth Business Community would like HRM to consider the establishment of a Sculpture Park within the boundaries of the current Waterfront Park south of the Dartmouth Ferry Terminal. Currently the publically accessible Waterfront Park is home to the Peace Pavilion, a Coast Guard artifact and a Children's Play Boat. This park provides an opportunity to introduce unique pieces of art in a variety of forms and designs that, when erected, would provide the public with a cultural experience and interesting options for families on the Dartmouth Waterfront as well as being an added tourist attraction near our downtown business district

RECOMMENDATION

Subject to the creation of a public/private partnership committee under existing HRM guidelines initiate a process to develop the Dartmouth Waterfront Park as a Sculpture Park. This Sculpture Park would be the home to a wide range in styles and construction of appropriate art that would be enjoyed by all visitors and become a new destination on the waterfront for public visitation. Consider renaming this Waterfront Park after a significant Dartmouth citizen associated with the arts such as Tom Forrestall, i.e. Tom Forrestall Sculpture Park.

BACKGROUND

The Dartmouth Waterfront Park was created to provide the public with an opportunity to gain full access to our waterfront and provide a family environment for those wishing to take full advantage of the location for family entertainment. It is directly connected to the Harbourfront Trail System and the Trans Canada Trail System and is a key location for pedestrian traffic utilizing the ferry system between Halifax and Dartmouth. It is currently underutilized as a public venue notwithstanding its use during major events such as Tall Ships and other events managed by the Alderney Landing Corporation and others.

The intent of creating a Sculpture Park within this area is to further improve the pedestrian traffic in our overall downtown core but to also add a significant feature to the existing range of attractions within this distinct district of HRM. The Shubenacadie Canal, the Dartmouth Heritage Museum, the Quaker House, the Craig Gallery and the Historic Walking Tour of downtown Dartmouth are a few of the attractions that would complement the creation of a Sculpture Park on the Dartmouth Waterfront.

DISCUSSION

The City of Windsor Ontario developed a similar park system along its waterfront for similar reasons, which is to ensure public access to the river front. Like our waterfront park theirs too was void of any activity that encouraged its citizens and tourists to visit the park and spend time there. In consultation with the local business community, the cultural and arts fraternity, the corporate sector, the municipal unit, representatives of international organizations and governments as well as the general public the municipality formed a group to develop options for implementation of a program that would see works of art across a wide range of interests placed permanently, and in some cases on loan, on a fixed base along the harbor walk that was developed previously.

The Dartmouth Park in question is owned and managed by HRM Parks Services and maintenance is currently supplemented by the DDBC Summer Maintenance Program under an HRM agreement. There is sufficient room within the boundaries of this park to place sculptures without infringing on the core center area which can continue to be designated for larger public events that require stages or tents to accommodate such events. There is a current situation regarding public safety in the park associated with the size and location of the trees in the park. It could be considered a positive move from a safety aspect to replace of some of the trees with Public Art that would not only improve site lines to the waterfront but the overall pedestrian environment in this park.

The Peace Pavilion is located in a corner of the park and due to its form and location is not a destination for many visitors and residents. The expansion of Cultural, Artistic and Family art in this waterfront park would further enhance the public use of this Pavilion. The installation of a Children's Play Boat was intended to increase the visits to the waterfront of families in our community. While this has been somewhat positive the creation of additional features within this park that the children can enjoy would add to the overall family environment additional features would provide.

Of interest in the Attached Photos to this document is the unique use of Planters which were declared surplus by the municipal unit and put in storage; now they display designer trees. The current Battle of Britain area in the Peace Park could take on a much more friendly and appreciative look with some alterations such as those shown in the attached photo on the Windsor waterfront. Interpretation boards were created when sufficient items were located here to provide some history to origin of the pieces. The two "persons" are on loan from a gallery and add a different dimension to the Sculpture Park. It is interesting however to note that all forms of art are included and have an attraction to a wide segment of the population which was the initial intent of this project.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

The budget implications for HRM would involve the following:

1. Additional staff time for maintenance of this upgraded Waterfront Park should it move forward. This may include removal of some existing trees and the addition of some gardens to enhance the new additions.

2. It may also include purchase and erection of fencing to provide protection for children in relation to specific installations.

3. To ensure the safe installation of fixed bases for the art it is suggested that responsibility for this portion also be borne by HRM to ensure continuity in design and construction.

4. To accommodate an increase in Sculpture Park attendance additional fixed benches would be required to meet this demand for viewing and other public activity.

It is anticipated that the costs of the art would be borne through private sector sponsorships, donations of art by organizations or governments and other acquisition processes; this notwithstanding the potential for HRM to place sculptures and other art forms of significance in this park to help encourage alternative donations and activity. Ongoing maintenance of the art would become part of the agreement process between HRM and the supplier and be supplemented through specific maintenance support from the Downtown Dartmouth Business Commission.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES / BUSINESS PLAN

The development of this Sculpture Park on the Dartmouth Waterfront is in keeping with the:

- Regional Plan
- Cultural Plan of 2006
- HRM's Public Art Policy
- HRM By Design

With the emphasis on acquiring financial partners to achieve projects such as this the DDBC believe that with the support of HRM, the private sector and other interested groups or individuals this project will advance the objectives of recent HRM policies related to Arts and Culture and creating Economic Growth within the core of the municipality.

ALTERNATIVES

- 1. Maintain the status quo on further development of the Dartmouth Waterfront Park and do nothing to enhance its attraction to residents and visitors. This would include taking no action to move forward and allocate inventoried art from storage to public display as outlined in HRM Public Art Policy.
- 2. Develop alternative programs to generate a greater interest in the Dartmouth Waterfront Park that will increase active use of these lands by enhancing the site as a destination for residents and visitors.

CONTACT

Mr. Tim Olive, Executive Director, DDBC Tel: 466-2997 tim@downtowndartmouth.ca

ATTACHMENTS











Military War Memorial









