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PO Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia
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Halifax Regional Council

March 2, 2004

March 9, 2004

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY:

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

Mike Labrecque, Director, Real Property & Asset Management

DATE: February 24, 2004

SUBJECT: Rajeeve Purbas Memorial Park - Chinook and Tudor Court Lancaster Ridge

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

A petition was submitted by Councillor Smith at the November 4, 2003, Council meeting on behalf of the residents of Lancaster Ridge Subdivision requesting the removal of playground equipment from the playground adjacent to the cul-de-sac of Chinook Court and Tudor Court.

BACKGROUND

The Chinook - Tudor Court Park was acquired by the Municipality as part of a Development Process with the NS Department of Housing for the development of Lancaster Ridge. This was the only parcel identified for a playground in this development.

In October of 1997, Mr. and Mrs. Purba met with HRM staff to discuss their proposal to donate playground equipment for the park in memory of their son, Rajeeve Purba, and have the park dedicated in his name.

At that time Councillor Schofield supported this proposal and cost shared from his District Capital fund for the site preparation of the park. The Purba's donated approximately \$22,000 worth of equipment and the HRM funded approximately \$12,000 in site preparation and landscaping. The park was developed over a number of years as there was no money allocated in the budget for a playground at this location and the final landscaping was completed in the summer of 2001.

DISCUSSION

Staff can appreciate that the enthusiastic play of children can certainly cause a disturbance to nearby residents; however, the normal sounds of children playing does not constitute a violation of By-Law Number P-600. The number of requests for parks and playgrounds each year far exceeds our budget capacity, with the average wait for a new park or playground at 5 to 7 years. HRM did not have any funds identified in its budget to build this park and without the support of the area Councillor and the donation from the Purbas the park would probably not exist today.

The signatories on the petition suggest moving the playground to the planned development for Cannon Crescent on a piece of property adjacent to the proposed church and the present location be turned into a quiet resting area for the common enjoyment of all.

The proposed site adjacent to the church will not be available for at least another two years, and the approximate cost to prepare a new site, move the playground equipment, and restore the former playground site would cost approximately \$50,000 to \$75,000. Presently, there are no funds available to fund such a move even if the site were available at this time.

In the future, should any new park/playground sites be constructed in nearby developments that meet the overall needs of the Lancaster Ridge neighbourhood and are within HRM Park Planning Guidelines, staff would be willing to reconsider this proposal.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

There are no budget implications at this time.

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

None

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:

Blair Blakeney, Capital Works, Parks

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