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Halifax Regional Council
March 8, 2005

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY:



Bob Nauss, Acting Director, Recreation, Tourism & Culture

DATE: Wednesday, March 23, 2005

SUBJECT: Dartmouth East Community Centre
INFORMATION

ORIGIN

Update to Council as requested by Councillor District 6.

BACKGROUND

The East Dartmouth Recreation Centre Society, an incorporated organization under the Societies Act, plans to construct a 20,000 square foot recreation facility at a cost of 3.3 million dollars, on municipal land on Caledonia Road. The community centre will be owned by the Halifax Regional Municipality and operated under a management agreement.

This proposed recreation facility will provide a much needed community centre for the residents of east Dartmouth as well as serve as the replacement facility for the East Dartmouth Boys and Girls Club, whose facility was closed and demolished in 1999. It is referenced as a priority in the Indoor Recreation Facility Master Plan.

At present, Dartmouth East is the only segment of the former City of Dartmouth without a community centre and one of the few areas of the Halifax Regional Municipality that does not currently reap the benefits of a dedicated community/ recreation facility.

The Dartmouth East Coalition Association was formed in 1995 with a core mission to investigate and resolve service gaps in the community, and ultimately to pursue the development of a community centre in Dartmouth East.

In February 1999, the Halifax Regional Municipality and the Dartmouth East coalition sponsored a formal study which determined the need and identified the optimum site for a Community Centre facility. The community based needs assessment identified a number of significant needs, including:

- a replacement program facility for the long established Boys and Girls Club.
- a large accessible multi-purpose space - especially for evening programs and events.
- community outreach office space.
- a community gathering place

DISCUSSION

Facilities presently available in Dartmouth East are not adequately satisfying the needs of local residents. As the East Dartmouth Boys and Girls Club is currently without a facility, this will allow the Club to be an anchor tenant for the Community Centre. It would also enhance community leisure and recreation programming by HRM Community Recreation Services. Potential partner agencies and organizations could use the new community centre as an outreach location to increase access. Discussions are ongoing with the Province and ACOA. Indications are positive that funding will be forthcoming. In the event funding isn't made available the building plan will be revised.

HRM would own the Community Centre, however a Management Board will be established to ensure the Community Centre operates in a responsible and accountable manner and reflects the community's vision, values and objectives.

The facility plans to accommodate:

- A number of small offices available for rent on an annual basis
- Community Storage space will be made available for rental groups.
- A CAP Site
- A canteen and bar facilities
- Multi - purpose Room
- Activity /Meeting Rooms
- Kitchen
- East Dartmouth Boys and Girls Club Offices

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

HRM has identified \$100,000 in the 2004/2005 Capital Budget and are proposing 1 million dollars in the 2005/2006 budget.

Applications are currently submitted to the Province of Nova Scotia for 1.1 million and to ACOA for 1.1 million. Pending the approval of these monies, the total Capital cost of this facility will be 3.3 million dollars.

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.

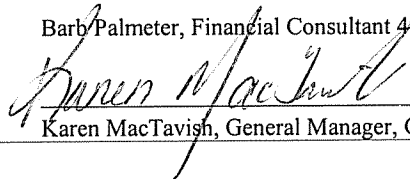
ATTACHMENTS

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: Kathy MacKinnon, Area Coordinator, 490-4725

Report Reviewed by: Barb Palmeter, Financial Consultant 490-7221

Report Approved by:


Karen MacTavish, General Manager, Community Recreation Services