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Item No. 5

Halifax Regional Council
January 8, 2008

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY: Denise Schofield
Denise Schofield, Acting Director, Community Development

DATE: December 24, 2007

SUBJECT: Petition - Akerley Rink Replacement

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

This reports originates from a petition tabled by Councillor Karsten at the May 1, 2007 Regional Council session.

BACKGROUND

With the closure of the provincially owned Akerley Arena, Councillor Karsten was presented with a petition requesting a replacement arena. The petition stated the following:

“Whereas the NSCC Akerley Rink closed in April 2007; and
Whereas the community uses and needs this rink to promote physical activity and healthy living in our region; and
Whereas the Minister of Health Promotion and Protection has indicated there is funding available to replace the rink, but the municipality has not applied for a grant;
We the undersigned request that the Halifax Regional Municipality apply for funds to help replace the NSCC Akerley rink as quickly as possible to help important recreational infrastructure in our community.”

DISCUSSION

HRM must have a clear definition of a project scope, cost, and location, in order to request financial assistance from another level of government. One of the items identified as part of the 2007 Operating Budget and Business Plans was the preparation of an update to the 2001 Arena Capacity Study and the 2004 Indoor Recreation Facilities Master Plan. The sudden closure of the Akerley Arena has made this update even more urgent and, as such, the updated arena capacity study has been identified as an early deliverable of the new Community Facilities Master Plan (CFMP) exercise. Staff have consulted with the Province on facility needs as part of the overall CFMP exercise in anticipation of possible future funding requests. Regional Council has been provided progress reports on this exercise over the past few months.

Although the full CFMP is not anticipated to be completed until the end of May 2008, staff have committed to present Council with arena recommendations and an action plan in the 2008 Capital Budget deliberations.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial 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.

ATTACHMENTS

No attachments.

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/cagenda.html> then choose the appropriate meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

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