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Item No. 5
Halifax Regional Council
March 22, 2011

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY: Original Signed by Director
Phillip Townsend, Director, Infrastructure and Asset Management

DATE: March 4, 2011

SUBJECT: Petition – Dartmouth Common Ball Field

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

October 12, 2010 Regional Council meeting - Councillor Smith presented a petition from Councillor McCluskey in which 402 persons signed stating opposition to the current softball field on the Dartmouth Common being converted to an artificial turf sports field.

BACKGROUND

The subject softball field is located behind Bicentennial School and adjacent to Thistle Street on the Dartmouth Common. During the consultation component of the Dartmouth Common Master Plan in 2009/10, there was public discussion around converting this softball field to an artificial turf sport field. Proponents of this idea felt that the change would serve a wider group of users including Dartmouth High and Bicentennial Junior High, which are without proper sports fields and would provide for the needs of the residents living in the core of Dartmouth and Halifax. That idea was incorporated into the Dartmouth Common Master plan as an idea which warranted further examination.

DISCUSSION

The portfolio of municipal open spaces, parks, trails, playgrounds and playing fields should be considered as a system aimed at providing for the needs of citizens. Therefore, determining the programs and uses on a particular site is carried out both through a region wide “system” lens and a local “neighbourhood” lens. No changes to the program for the Dartmouth Common ball field will be made without a full examination of the implications to the system, local neighbourhood and specific users.

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, Project and Reserve budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Project and Operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Dartmouth Common Master Plan was subject to extensive public and stakeholder consultation. Any changes, similar to the ones outlined in the petition, would include public consultation and ultimately a recommendation to the Harbour East Community Council. As any artificial sport field would cost upwards of three million dollars, Regional Council would also be part of any approval process.

ATTACHMENTS

None

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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