



P.O. Box 1749  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
B3J 3A5 Canada

**Item No. 4**  
**Halifax Regional Council**  
**December 6, 2011**

**TO:** Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

Original Signed by Director

**SUBMITTED BY:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phillip Townsend, Director, Planning and Infrastructure

**DATE:** November 14, 2011

**SUBJECT:** Petition Submitted by Councillor Blumenthal, Park Fencing

### **INFORMATION REPORT**

#### **ORIGIN**

During the May 11, 2010, meeting of Regional Council, Item 10.2.1 Petitions, Councillor Blumenthal submitted a petition containing 707 signatures on behalf of the Seaview Park Committee “**requesting that a fenced in area be erected at Seaview Park as soon as possible to serve all of HRM.**”

#### **BACKGROUND**

Subsequent to the above request for fence improvements to the park’s off leash area, staff and Councillor Blumenthal met with Mr. Irvine Carvery of the Africville Genealogical Society. Seaview Park was officially renamed “Africville” at a ceremony held on July 26, 2011. Renaming the park fulfilled one of the promises made as part of the agreement Halifax Regional Municipality reached with the Africville Genealogy Society in February 2010. A park maintenance agreement is also being developed between the Africville Heritage Trust and HRM, for the lands now known as Africville (formerly Seaview Park).

**DISCUSSION**

Mr. Carvery indicated that while off leash activities can continue to take place at Africville for the near future, additional fencing would not be consistent with the site's national heritage site designation or its intended use as an area to celebrate the cultural history of African Nova Scotians. The official opening of the Africville Church Museum took place on September 25, 2011. Future plans for Africville include the development of an interpretive centre and associated programs. As planning and development moves forward in the next few years, it will be necessary to transition the off leash area to another location. A potential candidate is the nearby Seaview Lookoff Park. Staff is currently assessing the park for its suitability as a site for off leash activities. Further development of the site would be overseen by the interdepartmental Off Leash Parks Strategy Committee as authorized by Regional Council's adoption of the HRM Off Leash Parks Strategy in 2007.

**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**

Staff have met with a representative of the Africville Genealogical Society. Future public engagement concerning Seaview Lookoff Park is anticipated.

**ATTACHMENTS**

N/A

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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.

Report Prepared by: John Charles, Planner, Real Property Planning, Planning and Infrastructure 490 5771

Original Signed

Report Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Peter Bigelow, Manager, Real Property Planning, Planning and Infrastructure 490 6047

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